

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING &amp; HIGH TECH

STATION

## COMPUTER COMPANIES

★ You are invited to share in your news and activities with our readers. Fax your messages to us on 648298 or write to P.O. Box 9313 Amman.

## The Mouasher Computer Show: An impressive kick-off for the computer expo season

THE MOUASHER Computer Show held by the Scientific and Medical Supplies Co. ended last Sunday after opening its doors to the public for three days. Hewlett Packard (HP) hardware was on show and was present in all of the different booths. The HP Vectra PC range including 386 and 486 models was running varied applications and networked in an impressive wing displaying a multi-user system. Other booths included multi-media, video and visuals, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), wireless connections, Laser Rom and others. The show was a success and attracted impressive numbers of the public.

Smaller hardware on show included a variety of HP calculators such as the Scientific and Engineering and Business and Finance calculators at rather decent prices and language aids such as translating machines and electronic dictionaries.

The "Video and Visuals" booth showed an HP computer running computer captured images in a Windows environment hooked up to a VCR and amplifier. This was possible by using programs called VEDitor and Image Prep. with graphics cards called "Super TV-Video Windows" and "Super TV-Tuner". Video, or any other visual media, is captured and manipulated using videotape, laser disks or TV. These are among a whole bunch of similar cards produced by an American company called New Media Graphics. All boards run under Windows or DOS.

A Plotter utilizing inkjet technology captured the interest of



Scenes from the show: Dr. Maher Mouasher briefing Minister Abu Al-Kagheb during the opening of the show.

visitors and was great news to engineers and architects. HP are known to be world leaders in printer technology and that was evident in the quality displayed by different models of laser and inkjet printers during the show.

Another interesting thing was a portable computer on show called the Momenta, incorporating a lightpen used for different operations and weighing only six pounds. The lightpen can replace both the keyboard and the mouse in data entry. It includes a built-in data modem and a paperless built-in fax! The Momenta comes with a special carrying case complete with a holder for the pen which can be opened to expose the screen without the need to actually remove the computer. It looks like the Momenta is going to be a very tough competitor for the Apple Macintosh PowerBook.

Al-Nasher foundation participated with its DIWAN products for the Macintosh "Al-Nasher Al-Maktabi" and "Al-Nasher Al-Sahili". There was an impressive set up which showed new file transfer software from PC format to Apple format and backwards called "Alif Baa".

The seminar schedule included topics like Advanced Image Management System and Open Systems (two seminars) given by representatives of HP Geneva, HP PC Networks and MIS/DSS

given by ITG-Jordan, Image Data Processing and Multi-Media given by Automaton-Egypt and UNIX by a representative of the Ministry of Planning.

All in all the show was very good, and visitors expressed their satisfaction but complained slightly about the absence of good bargains. Still, the officials should be thanked for all being friendly and very helpful.

More shows are coming up which will also be targets of the public such as the Apple Expo, late this month and the Comcent '92 Expo, both of which we'll be reporting about extensively next week.

### Show Preview: Comcent '92

■ The Comcent '92 Expo, which started yesterday is a show to look out for and what we've seen of it so far is impressive. There are several sections showing the full Mitac PC range including two very neat portables, the Mitac 3025D and 3026E, and some very interesting Citizen printers — especially the Citizen PN48a multi-lingual portable printer, which is one of the smallest printers around. More on the show next week.

## The future is information

THE INFORMATION revolution everybody's been taking about is happening. We feel the revolution in our houses, work place, media and everything else around us. Even good old money has been replaced. People buy all that they need with small plastic cards which when used with computerized machines which can decide what you can buy, how much of it and eliminate the exchange of actual money. Brain power is more important than muscle. Developing countries should understand this fact and use the potential offered by computers in putting them ahead of other countries.

This has given rise to the "Economy of Information" which is rapidly replacing traditional economic systems. Nowadays, possessing information can be a more effective factor in producing commercial exchange than the possession of capital. Even technologically advanced nations have been forced to adjust and remodel traditional methods of planning so as to take into consideration the important economic activity of exchanging information.

Many firms make a profit from collecting, processing and selling information to their clients. Such firms basically sell numbers, statistics and other information of value to governmental institutions and business organizations.

Already in the USA, Japan and several countries in Europe, businesses have vast computer databases including all the necessary managerial data to assist in purchasing, production and marketing decisions and activities. Computer manufacturers have cashed in on this need by providing all the necessary mainframes, minicomputers and networked microcomputers — and sales are always rising. The modern world is truly putting everything into computers. This fact justifies worries about trespassing hackers penetrating important computer systems and fiddling with vital information. There should be a fair degree of security if computers are to run the world.

People working with computers all the time understand this fact more than anybody else. Shifting from pen and paper to electronic data storage systems wasn't easy for them. This is where software stepped in. Protection of software and its developers will help promote such a revolution in developing countries and should improve the quality of the software in circulation. After all, good computer software is a building block in effective computer performance, whereas weak software full of bugs and quirks won't do the job. It is only normal for a developing country like Jordan to formulate a National Computer Policy (NCP) which will include the introduction of copyrights and the careful planning of computerizing services to the public.

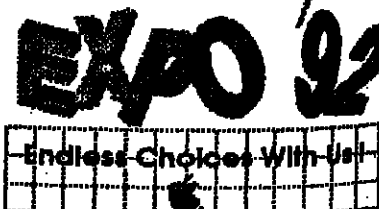
This might start you thinking about how stupid it is to merely use the magnificent potential of electronic technology lying at your desk for playing games. We have already got the necessary hardware and have some very experienced professionals in the field of Information Systems (IS). Let's use these factors properly rather than end up behind in a world moving rapidly towards the information age. ■

### Endless solutions with them...

■ Here's a sneak look at the new logo for the Apple Expo '92. The show is scheduled for 27 March at the Amman Marriott Hotel. Ideal Systems, Apple Computer Inc. distributors in Jordan, have decided to hold their 1992 Apple Computer Expo. in the Amman Marriott hotel between 27 and 30 May. The expo. will be held under the slogan "Endless solutions with us".

A number of Arab and international companies confirmed their participation in the expo. such as the Egyptian companies InfoArab, Pie Practical Solutions and PAC Egypt; the Lebanese company Horizons, the British company Diwan, and ABM — Apple agents in the Middle East (except for Egypt and Saudi Arabia).

The Expo. will include special booths showing how Apple and other companies or institutions have applied the Macintosh to their solutions



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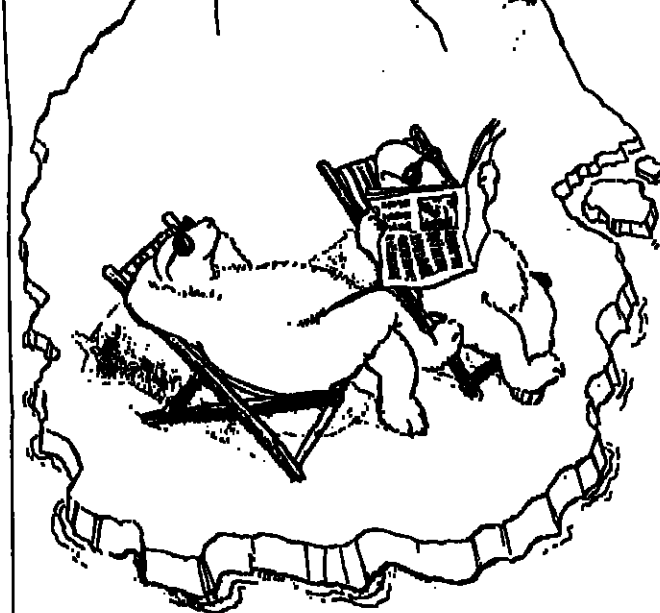


# The Star

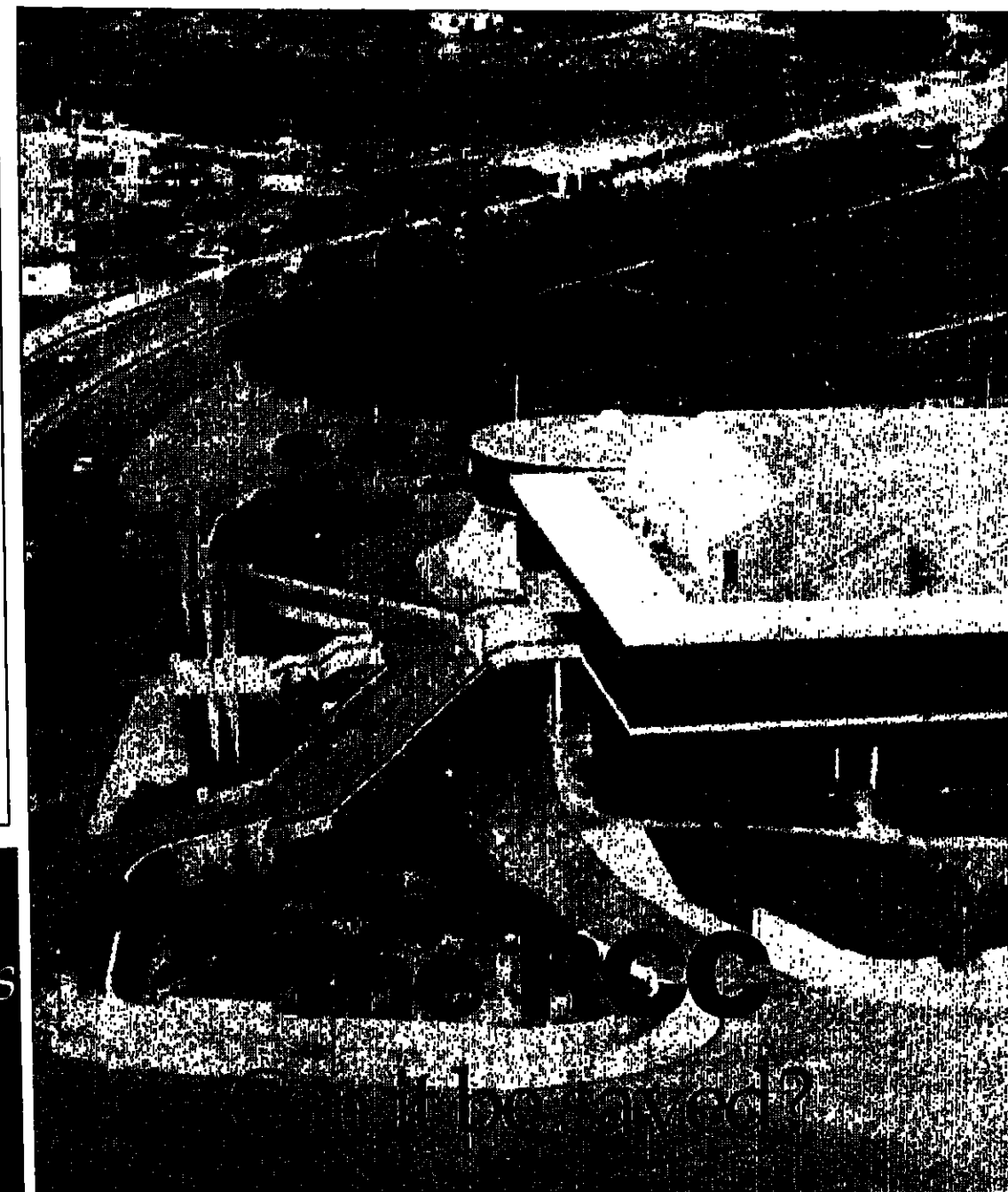
Jordan's political, economic  
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 28 MAY — 3 JUNE 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 11 اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

## Jordan and the Earth Summit: What are the issues?



Chevy  
Chase goes  
under  
cover



Le  
Jourdain

Section française du Star

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& 13

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STATION  
X NO

■ Plenty of surprises

at Apple Expo '92

■ More about

Comcent expo

ECONOMIC  
PERSPECTIVES

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This week's issue:

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- Petra Bank employees get money
- Overcoming the cement crisis
- How Lebanon is coping with itself
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# JORDAN

## WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views.

### Medium or message?

Jordan Television and Radio Corp., in cooperation with the Arab Broadcasting Union and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, has organized a symposium on The Impact of New Technologies on Broadcasting News. The four-day event, which closes on Friday, was opened by Minister of Information Mr. Mahmoud El Sherif. Participants from the African Broadcasting Union, CNN, European Broadcasting Union, Intelsat, Japanese Broadcasting Corp., North America Broadcasting Union and individual countries are participating in the event.

In his opening speech, Mr. El Sherif called the attention of participants to the moral questions involved in dealing with new communication technologies by the developing nations. He pointed out the need of making the medium and the message compatible with each other, taking into consideration the relationship between man and machine, while focusing on human beings as the target of the message. He added that in this era of the global village, the developing nations should strive to move from being consumers of technology to participants in making them.

JTV and Radio Jordan Corp. Director General Mr. Radi Alkhas thanked the Friedrich Ebert Foundation for their support of the symposium and the Arab Broadcasting Union for their commitment to their goals. Among the participants are representatives

from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar. A round table discussion of the complex issues of communication and technology will take place on closing day. Sony and other manufacturers of sophisticated broadcasting technologies are exhibiting their latest products at the symposium's venue at the Amra Hotel.

### Trouble in the Garden

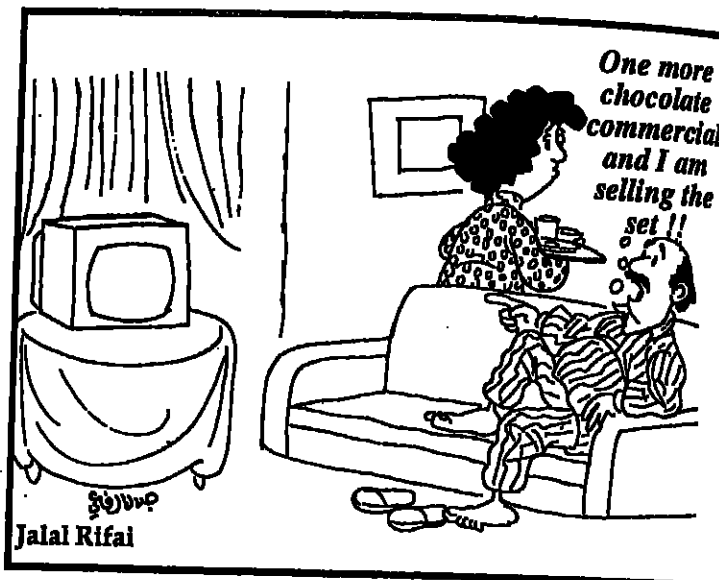
Shop owners at Wasi El Tai street, better known as Gardens, have formed a pressure group to negotiate with the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) over speeding up work on the commercial road which started two months ago. The committee recently announced that its contacts with the Mayor of Amman, Mr. Mohammad Al Bashir, to finish the work as soon as possible have failed to advance the municipality's deadline of early August. Lower House deputy Fakhri Kawa, who attended a recent committee meeting, criticized the municipality for dragging its feet over the matter. Committee sources spoke of 2000 businesses being affected by the closure of the street, which was badly damaged during the winter. This is the third time the street has been paved and asphalted since it was opened back in the late seventies. Since then it has become the most important commercial street in Amman. Before the last public works affair, one square meter was renting for JD 30, the highest

rate in the city. Committee members claim that the closure of the street was so bad for business that some badly hit establishments had to lay off some of an estimated 10,000 workers employed by Gardens St. companies.

### Unhappy elections

The University of Jordan has had its first democratic elections for a students council. Two hundred and fifty one candidates ran for the 80-seat council. More than 19,000 students from 13 colleges voted, although many students boycotted the elections on the grounds that the council fell short of their demand to form a general federation of Jordanian universities' students. Others said that the council will open the way for the realization of the federation. Voting had to be extended for a second day for lack of legal quorum.

And Members of the Overland and Mechanical Workers Association/Drivers Branch in Zarqa have called the attention of the Jordan Workers Associations Federation to vote rigging in the association's elections in Zarqa, which was held last Sunday. They said empty ballot papers were missing while ballot boxes contained 36 more papers than the allowed 591. The members called for an investigation of the alleged rigging and a review of the final results of the elections. Others went as far as calling for the cancellation of elections results altogether.



Jalal Rifal

## Scrapbook

### Grand sightseeing tour

MY FRIEND the pessimist barged into my office and declared: "I would like to be on the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks." Taken aback for a few moments I retorted: "But I thought you were against the peace talks? What changed you?"

"My burning desire to travel the world," he quipped. "You see since the opening of the peace conference in Madrid last year, participants travelled to Washington, Moscow, Tokyo, Brussels, Ottawa, Lisbon just to name a few landmarks. If they keep going like this, they will end up touring the Great Wall of China, the Great Barrier Reef and Grand Canyon, not to mention the leaning Tower of Pisa and ruins of Angkor."

"But surely seeing the world isn't the purpose of this exercise..." I said. "It is the fulfilment of peace in this region."

"Don't give that local consumption stuff," he answered. "I don't want to get into a futile discussion with you. I insist that each and every Jordanian be given the chance to attend the talks. That way this grand sightseeing tour will not be limited to few chosen ones."

"But don't you have to be an expert in some regional specialty to qualify as a delegation member?" I asked innocently.

"Not necessarily," he said. "I can represent the silent majority. Or I can make suggestions for ideal negotiation sites...like Bali, Honolulu, Foz and Aya Napa."

"You're just jealous," I replied.

"Sure I am, but who won't be," he said. "I mean why don't they choose a dreary location so they can concentrate on what they're meeting for, and not on enjoying themselves?"

"Any suggestions?" I asked, smiling.

"Plenty of grey locations in this world. How about in the jungles of Equatorial Africa or on the dry shores of the Aral Sea or the dunes of the Empty Quarter? That way they'll want to finish their chore and get the hell out of there."

Ahmad Madi

### Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:					
	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.7/8	9.5/8	9.15/16	4.11/16	9.00
2 mo.	3.15/16	9.11/16	9.15/16	4.11/16	8.15/16
3 mo.	4.00	9.11/16	9.15/16	4.11/16	8.3/4
6 mo.	4.3/8	9.11/16	9.15/16	4.5/8	8.5/8
1 year	4.5/8	9.5/8	9.15/16	4.5/8	8.9/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):  
Savings accounts 5.75%, Call accounts 5.75%, 1 week 6%, 1 month 7%, 2 months 7.25%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%.  
Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:  
DMK SFR STG YEN CAN FFR  
LAST 1.6110/15 1.4815/25 1.8240/50 129.30/25 not received 5.4175/90  
Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

### Money Matters

Average exchange rates in JLD		
Tuesday 19/5/1992		
	Buy	Sell
US\$	680.0	678.00
£	1237.5	1231.3
DM	421.2	419.1
SFR	457.8	455.5
FRF	125.3	124.7
YEN	526.9	524.7
(100)		
DFL	374.0	372.1
SKR	117.1	116.5
LIT	56.0	55.7
(100)		
BLF	204.4	203.4
(10)		

### Gold & Silver

	JD
Gold 1kg	7,525.00
21 ct	6,600
18 ct	5,560
Eng. pound	
8g	54.00
Rakhad:	
7g	48.000
24ct (swiss)	8.150
Silver (1kg)	150.00

The Star

648-298

## Can the Royal Cultural Centre be saved?

By Cristina Malak  
Special to The Star

FOLLOWING RECENT reports that Jordan's Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) is facing economic difficulties and runs the risk of closing down, officials and community members alike are now asking themselves — what lies in store for Jordan's foremost cultural establishment? Can it be saved from the threat of having to close its doors?

According to Mr. Iyad Qattan, director of the RCC, a strategy for developing the center has now been put forward and the future of the center is "under discussion among officials."

The history of the center has so far been shaky. First going into operation in 1980, some parts of the building were finished hastily to accommodate the 1980 Amman Arab Summit Conference, while the remaining parts of the center were not fully built until 1983.

The center was intended to be the first custom-built complex in the kingdom for the performing arts, with included facilities for visual arts presentations, conferences and seminars. It remained independent for a period of just two years before coming under the supervision of the government. The RCC is now a governmental department relying on an annual governmental budget set aside for its expenses.

Originally, proposals were made for the RCC to be a youth activity center. For a long time it remained basically without a philosophy; it was just a place like any other to accommodate activities that were without any basic objectives. Later it became "attached" to the Ministry of Information, while today, the RCC is an obscure department of the Ministry of Culture.

As a result of these constant and successive changes in management together with constant alternations of affiliations to various ministries, the state of affairs is lamentable: A loss of authority by the RCC management, a disappearance of its philosophy and long term objectives, a reduction in the government budget and a loss of funds and grants. The Ministry of Culture have not been available to comment on this predicament.

In order to find some form of solution, a committee has been set up for administrative and managerial development. The committee accepts proposals from various governmental departments and also the RCC, which has put several proposals of its own forward.

One of these proposals concerns the status of the center. Mr. Qattan said, "The status of the center must change radically and be completely independent from the Ministry of Culture and any other ministry."

The basic problem, explained Mr. Qattan, is that the RCC is a governmental department. "It is not able and has never been able to set out properly because it is fully dependent on a governmental budget," he said.

"If, for example, the RCC comes across a theater group which in its view is excellent, the group will not be able to do any work until they are provided for

in the next year's budget. As a result, the group disappears due to lack of encouragement. Additionally, all income must go to the government and so it is impossible for the RCC to reinvest into further developments of different projects," he added.

In spite of this problem, the RCC has managed to activate the center on a relatively low budget (never more than a maximum of JD 200,000 annually). Taking into consideration salaries, energy and maintenance of the building, it is easy to calculate that most of the budget is swallowed and hardly any cash is left over for the cultural activities.

This, of course, defies the very purpose of the center. "What we would like to see in the future is a center which really stands for its

name," said Mr. Qattan. "We plan to have courses for various creative activities. I do not like to use clichés, but it is a fact that whenever there are some good ideas, officials tend to say, 'This is for our future plans.' He continued: "It is our wish that the decision makers wake up now to support the RCC. Not as a place, but as a philosophy."

Other proposals put forward to the commission include an annual grant from the government as well as giving the RCC authority to reinvest instead of sending the money to the government treasury. A strategy for establishing similar cultural complexes in various governorates in the kingdom has also been recommended.

As for the future aims of the RCC, Mr. Qattan described them



as: Assisting cultural change in Jordan in line with the democratization process, assisting cultural development and helping the development of creative abilities and freedom of expression.

The center also aims to assist in initiating and establishing cultural projects, complexes and activities in all parts of Jordan and to establish positive and constructive links with various external cultural trends and organizations. By building an information reference section, it also intends to document and publish information about its cultural activities and creative works.

Many members of the community have been devastated at the news that the RCC may close. Voicing the thoughts of many, Khaled, a student, said: "It is our hope for the future generations that they can learn more than we ever could. I am not talking about the traditional subjects one learns at school, but about 'culture'. It is so important. I cannot see a reason for closing the RCC, certainly not purely because of administrative arguments."

## Apple Computer

# EXPO 92

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Joint ventures ahead

## JPMC to boost falling production to 5 million this year

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to The Star

ONE OF the country's traditional exports, phosphate, is about to get a long-awaited marketing boost. After two successive years of declining phosphate production, the company in charge of mining and selling the mineral, Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.

(JPMC), is looking into new markets in the hope of bringing exports to upward levels.

In 1990 phosphate production was set at 4.8 million tons, but last year it dropped to 4.3 million tons. The Kingdom's total exports decreased by 13 per cent last year and by 15 per cent the year before. In contrast, Jordan hopes to push production to 5 million tons

this year by increasing its exports.

In an interview with The Star (JPMC) General Director Mr Thabet Al Taher said it is clear that achieving this goal will not be easy because of the tough competition in the international market. To meet the challenge, JPMC is concentrating its efforts on marketing by expanding its



Thabet Al Taher

traditional markets and exploring new ones.

This is being done while the company is following a new policy of moving into down stream

projects aiming at increasing and diversifying its exports. JPMC is overcoming the high costs involved by going into joint ventures with international partners. Of the three projects that were under consideration, one has already been agreed upon with India, which has been Jordan's major phosphate buyer for many years, taking 35 per cent of the Kingdom's phosphate export each year. The agreement, which was signed recently with the South Indian Petrochemical Industrial Co., aims at establishing a new plant at the Shediyyeh mines to produce 200,000 tons of phosphoric acid.

In addition to rock phosphate, Jordan produces small quantities of aluminium fluoride, phosphoric acid and fertilizers. The new plant will produce 600,000 tons of diammonium phosphate, which according to Mr Taher, "will be transferred to the Indian market which has a high phosphoric acid consumption rate." The plant will need between 650,000 to 700,000 tons of rock phosphate to meet its production quota.

In addition to boosting production, Mr Taher said the new venture will provide jobs for technicians, and give them the chance to learn about the technology involved in producing this amount of phosphoric acid. The agreement will also generate a new source of income for the company whose main revenue comes from rock phosphate sales.

Other markets opening to Jordanian phosphate include Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and some European countries. China is said to be in the market for Jordanian phosphate and large quantities of potash.

A joint project with a number of Japanese companies and the Arab Potash Co. (APC) will be set up in Aqaba to produce 300,000 tons of diammonium phosphate annually. The plant will require about 250,000 tons of phosphate and 80,000 tons of potash every year.

Mr Taher said Jordan and Pakistan are also discussing the feasibility of running a plant in Pakistan to produce 390,000 tons of diammonium phosphate annually. If this project takes off, the new plant will need an additional 650,000 tons of rock phosphate from Jordan guaranteeing an increase of exports to Pakistan. ■



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## Mohamed Makiya: A post-Islamic classicist

The work of internationally acclaimed architect Mohamed Makiya is celebrated in a book written by his architect son, Kanan.

By Maggie James

LONDON — IN the Arab world Iraqi-born Mohamed Makiya is regarded as an 'Islamic' architect of great importance. He is responsible for the design of many prominent buildings in his native country, and since 1970 has covered projects in Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

One of Makiya's most illustrious schemes, ironic in view of the recent upheaval, was the design of the Kuwait State Mosque — the biggest completed building of his career and one of the largest mosques in the world.

A whole chapter of the book is devoted to this grand building of huge dimensions — arguably the pièce de résistance of Makiya's long and distinguished career. The mosque can accommodate 7,000 people in a 5,000 square meter prayer hall, has a main dome 47 meters high and a minaret 70 meters high.

Author Kanan Makiya, Mohamed's son and himself an architect, expounds his personal view of his father's style in the book. He claims that the narrative is about appreciating Makiya's work on its own non-Islamic, purely architectural terms.

He argues that the Islamic faith did not impose a physical setting or set of visual symbols by which to identify it. "Minarets, *mihrab*s, domes, arches, niches, the *muqarnas* (a structural/decorative device employing three-dimensional shapes in various combinations) and even arabesque geometry have no single origin in the requirement of the faith," he says.

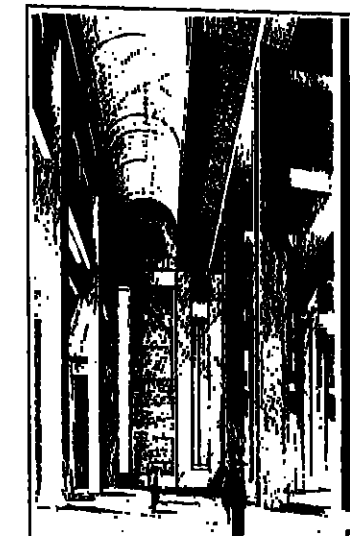
Aside from the argument as to whether Makiya may or may not be an 'Islamic' architect, the author states that his father is undoubtedly the first Iraqi, and probably the first Arab, architect to have tried to re-appropriate a specific, hitherto 'dead' monumental tradition of built form associated with Islam.

This, he says, is a more meaningful prism through which to consider his contribution to architecture.

"Makiya's architecture," enthuses his son, "celebrates power and identity in a grand Renaissance-like way, no longer in vogue anywhere in the West." He opines that ours is the century of infinitely reproducible images which no one in the future will choose to remember through the permanence of his buildings.

"Monuments about unity, faith and power are an anachronism in a godless world grown cynical of all politics. Yet Makiya excels in their design. His buildings are very modern in their treatment of volume and form, and quintessentially regional in their identity."

His monumentalism and classicism are profoundly Iraqi in origin, and Islamic (of the home-grown Abbasid variety). Yet on a formal level (in the use of concrete and curtain-walling, the expression of structure, the role of volume), they could not have



been imagined without the contribution of the international style and 20th-century architect," he says.

This 'visual essay' is amply illustrated with sketches and photographs of Mohamed Makiya's works and contains a list of principal projects undertaken by his own architectural and planning consultancy practice which he first established in 1946 in Baghdad. Many of these projects have won awards.

To the untrained eye Makiya's varied architectural works appear to blend a pleasing mix of modern and traditional design from a man who cares deeply about his heritage and this tribute from his son serves to reinforce that notion. ■

Academic File

POST-ISLAMIC CLASSICISM: A Visual Essay on the Architecture of Mohamed Makiya. By Kanan Makiya. Saqi Books. 159pp. £35. Hardback. ISBN 0-86356-295-7.

By Pam Dougherty  
Special to The Star

## Maintaining the splendor of Al Aqsa

TIME AND history have been kind to the Dome of the Rock, the splendid Umayyad mosque which marks the place of the Prophet Muhammad's ascent from Jerusalem to heaven.

Resident architect at the Aqsa complex (which includes both the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosque, together with a number of other historic buildings), Mr Isam Awwad, says a visitor from the Umayyad era would recognise today's building as its sitting on the bedrock and its octagonal shape have made any substantial changes difficult. But the building has also benefited from its own beauty — succeeding conquerors of Jerusalem have left it undisturbed, and even the Crusaders exchanged only the crescent for a cross and carried stories of its splendor to Europe, where it became an inspiration for European architecture.

Today, neither its beauty nor its religious and historic importance are protection enough. As Israeli archaeologists excavate around the site, determined to find traces of their ancient settlement, as religious zealots call for the rebuilding of the Temple and Israeli soldiers fire tear gas into its splendid interior causing serious risk of fire, the Dome of the Rock faces the greatest threat to its survival in its 1300 year history.

In such a setting, the practical job of maintaining the mosque is daunting but must go on. For Mr Awwad and the Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee, their major task at present is to reverse a poor renovation job carried out between



Al Aqsa mosque: A symbol of the Holy City

1959 and 1964.

At that time the lead dome of the mosque was replaced by a golden aluminium dome, the wooden roof of the ambulatory was replaced by an aluminium roof and part of the building's marble facing was replaced.

Now timber will go back in place of the aluminium ambulatory and this will be covered with lead. The Dome itself will be covered with gilded copper — it has the same specifications as the traditional lead covering but is lighter. Mr Awwad says that although the dome was traditionally covered with lead and was not gilded, the shining golden dome has now come to symbolize not just the mosque but Jerusalem itself, and so will be maintained.

Work must also be done to replace some of the marble cover-

ing the walls of the mosque which has become water stained. This is mainly due to water seeping through the walls reacting with the mortar which holds the marble in place and which has a high iron oxide content.

As in earlier times, the work will combine local and imported skills and materials. But for Isam Awwad the origins of the worker and their materials is not the important question, it is their ability to do the best possible job that counts.

The five companies invited to offer for the work on the Dome are all specialists in metal roofing, while the marble for the walls will come from Italy and all work will be done in cooperation with Palestinian engineers and craftsmen. ■

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## Apple Hill Chamber Players

## Music as a family affair

By Mary Denis  
Special to The Star

IF TEAM spirit is an essential quality for any working group, then this valuable property is even more precious to a chamber music ensemble, whose entire existence depends on artistic and professional unity.

The Apple Hill Chamber Players, who performed this week at the University of Jordan, demonstrated just that. Each one of the players, individually and collectively, made for a splendid musical group.

Organized by the National Music Conservatory and the American Cultural Center, the Apple Hill Chamber Players made an impressive performance, appealing to an audience of all age groups and musical backgrounds.

One very original musical piece was based on the story of "Winnie-the-Pooh", written by Apple Hill composer-in-residence Jon Deak, charmingly combining drama, speech and music. Sad Eeyore (viola), energetic Piglet (piano) and honey-minded Pooh (double bass), were a sweet trio who expressed their characters through a successful blend of movement, speech intonation and music.

According to Betty Hauck (viola), to whom the piece was dedicated, "the musical flow is governed not so much by pitch systems (tonal, modal, atonal, serial) as by speech intonation and rhythm. Virtually the entire piece is speech inflected."

The acoustics of the auditorium, which are not designed for chamber music, did not, unfortunately allow the audience to fully benefit from the ensemble's performance. The impact,

nevertheless, was powerful and the Players' interpretation of Faure's Piano Quartet was especially convincing.

The musicians' skill and their musical compatibility uncovered a lovely style — melodious and smooth — thus complementing and accentuating Faure's musical tenderness.

Ever since the establishment of the Players in 1971, the musicians have stayed professionally inseparable. Only cellist Bonnie Thron, a former Apple Hill student, is a newcomer.

All six musicians are experienced solo performers, and it is perhaps this skill that makes the difference to their artistic relationship. Eric Stumacher, pianist, executive director and administrator of the group, treats his colleagues as a family: "It is like any other relationship, very much like a complicated marriage. It involves a lot of accepting. Any relationship needs flexibility in order to work things out. It is quite unusual for an ensemble to stay together for so long."

The musicians have been able to find an interesting balance between individual and group needs. "You have to feel and make the rest feel that each one is important at the same time. It is a good allegory for life in general," says Stumacher.

The Apple Hill Chamber Players are not a conventional artistic group. They are not only performers, they are also permanent and founding Artists-in-Residence at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in East Sullivan, New Hampshire.

Summarizing the objectives and purposes of the center, Stumacher says that its main role is to further the performing and teaching of chamber music. They

strongly believe that music has a special language which can reach the hearts of all the world and can bridge the differences between people — political or cultural.

"The world needs to work together," he says. "It is like chamber music — each player preserves his or her individuality, but by playing a piece of music together they make one beautiful creation." He believes that the world and the Middle East "will be like chamber music — each culture preserving its individuality and enhancing the others."

Through music making, music teaching and music listening, the Apple Hill Chamber players have, for the past 19 years, become the core faculty for the world famous Apple Hill Summer Festivals.

These festivals attract music students of all levels from all over the world.

"We construct a special community of musicians," explains Stumacher. "Our philosophy at the Apple Hill Center is that the music inside each person is something special, and all the participants can mix together for their mutual benefit." This way, the Center stresses that it is not only professional and advanced musicians who are important.

How does Stumacher rate the American music educational system compared to the European one? He admits that the American system is less structured and rigid, and more flexible than the European system, and believes that in the US they pay more attention to a student's individuality.

"There was a large movement in the 70s and 80s to move away from structure and give way to individuality. Now it looks like there is a tendency to reconcile



the two movements," he explains.

The musicians' schedule in Amman includes holding two workshops at the Conservatory, one for music teachers and the other for the students. According to Stumacher, the general impression of the standards at Jordan's NMC has been favorable. "It looks like you have some talented students there," he says.

As part of an educational program, one scholarship has been offered to a capable NMC student. It has not been decided yet who will be privileged to join the Apple Hill Summer Camp, which is attended yearly by a community of 250 students of all ages, background and skill levels. All expenses are paid for by the Apple Hill Chamber Center and the choice will be based upon the student's performance during the workshop.

In the field of classical music education, Jordan is still at an early stage of development. How does Stumacher visualize Jordan's advancement in this field? And what does it take to cultivate good standards? In his opinion, bringing lots of performing groups, selling records and tapes of classical music and bringing teachers from other countries to share their expertise will boost general public interest and will extend professional horizons.

He gave the example of Japan and China, where there was no tradition of western classical music. "In less than 20 years it has become a popular and important aspect of cultural life. They brought teachers from the US and Europe, involved parents in their children's studies and the results are great," Jordan, he adds, "is very much on the right track."

A new topic entitled "Women in Jordan" has been introduced, which took a year of research and data collection. It presents Jordanian women pioneers who have made outstanding contributions to different fields of culture, science, and politics.

Another panoramic program entitled "Arabs and the Sea" discusses Arabic history and the role of the sea in the life of Arabs.

Other exciting items have been prepared, including a series of half hour features on colors and senses in different religions and societies and "Megamix", a panorama of topics on art, culture and the lighter side of life.

At the moment the editorial staff is in its preparation phase for the summer cycle, which habitually increases entertainment hours and music giving special touches to long hot summer days.

Zada is proud to say that his radio station receives telephone calls and letters daily from all over the world. It makes him dream of multi channel transmissions which will enable Jordan to address listeners in different regions with different approaches, according to their interests.

"Our voice must reach as far as possible," he said, "because we have a lot to say."

Once 17 hours on air was probably a far-fetched dream for Radio Jordan, but today it is a reality. Hopefully the day will come when we can enjoy a multi channel setting and 24 hour transmission.

By Lina Arafat  
Special to The Star

THE 20TH century drive for progress has now been replaced by a fight for survival. With the depletion of the Earth's natural resources and the emergence of environmental problems such as air and water pollution, Jordan, like the rest of the world, must now set strategies and objectives for a safer future.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Rio de Janeiro from the first of next month, will be an international forum for such issues. Also known as the Earth Summit, the UNCED will be the first major global effort towards redefining and reorienting human behavior, consumption and production patterns.

A further aspect to the Earth Summit will be the opportunity for redefining and putting in place new and innovative strategies and programs, in the context of international cooperation and collaboration, for integrating environmental concerns into the development process.

As the name implies, this first ever Earth Summit is expected to be attended by the heads of the Member States of the United Nations together with their delegations, representatives from United Nations agencies, some 2000 members of the media, inter-governmental organizations and NGO representatives, along with other groups concerned with environmental issues. In all, it is estimated that over 50,000 people will attend the event.

Jordan will also be participating, and has so far attended all of the preparatory meetings held for setting up the Earth Summit agenda. Dr Abdul Razzaq Tubelshat, Jordan's minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, said, "Jordan has a number of environmental problems which in turn affect its development process. Environmental and development concerns should be shared with other developing countries since the environment has no borders and we should all cooperate. The time has come to deal with such urgent issues, to ensure a better future for coming generations."

In the two years' preparations and research behind the Earth Summit, the United Nations' General Assembly established a preparatory committee (PrepCom), which was open to all UN members and specialized agencies, with the participation of observers. The PrepCom set up three working groups, the first group dealing with issues concerning the protection of the atmosphere, ozone depletion, biotechnology, climate change, desertification and drought.

The second group dealt with issues concerning the protection of oceans and all global aspects of marine pollution, fresh water resources and the management of wastes. The third group, meanwhile, dealt with legal, institutional and related matters, including legal and institutional issues referred to it by the first two groups.

"We in Jordan have looked at the results of the PrepCom, and with them we have prepared the working papers which will be discussed at the working groups and later at the plenary session," said Dr Talal Akasha from the Council for Science and Technology, and member of the Jordanian delegation to the Rio conference.

The plenary session will deal

## Jordan to stand for developing countries at Earth Summit

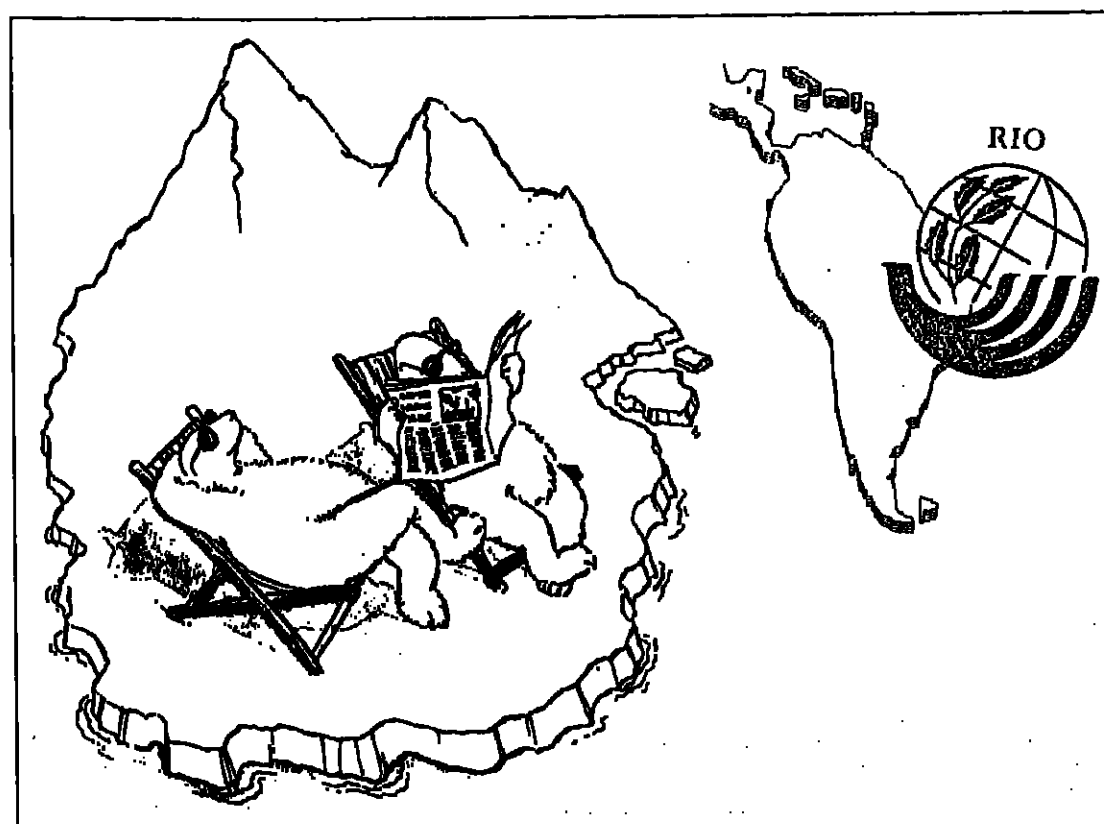
with cross-sectoral issues including poverty and environmental degradation, financial resources, the transfer of technology and population.

"We feel that the developing world is not being given enough," Mr Akasha added. "There is the problem of technology transfer, which is given by the developed world at very high prices, if it is given at all. Also, natural resources are being utilized by developed countries at low prices and then sold to developing countries at a much higher value."

The United Nations General Assembly also requested that each country prepare a report with which to present its perspectives and experiences, together with information on policies, activities and issues on a national level.

Jordan's national strategy on environment was unveiled before His Majesty King Hussein last Saturday, revealing that Jordan is now committing itself to safeguarding human lives by protecting soil, water resources and the atmosphere. Implementation of this strategy should secure sustainable socio-economic development for Jordan's future generations.

Dr Tubeishat said, "We have made connections with the IMF, so as to coordinate with us in supporting our projects. Developing countries like Jordan need such support to help overcome



environmental problems which hinder development, with debts only adding to our difficulties."

This, he said, further emphasizes the urgent need for international cooperation among the developed and developing states to meet the objectives of the Earth Summit.

Mr Raja Gedon, another delegation member working with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, said, "Several projects have been prepared concerning environmental development in Jordan, and we will contact all government agencies and specialists in order to submit our projects within the framework of our environment strategy."

A further divide between the developed and the developing world concerns the consumption of the world's natural resources. Statistics now indicate that 20 per cent of the world's population is utilizing 80 per cent of its natural resources, while the rest of the globe struggles with the remaining 20 per cent. The divide is largely between rich and poor. The inhabitants of wealthy countries lead ecologically wasteful

life-styles which pose dire problems for the planet's future.

"The depletion by developed countries of such large amounts of natural resources will end up in disaster unless the world takes care of the situation, and plans properly and collectively," said Dr Akasha. He emphasized the need for developing countries to utilize energy and natural resources in a manner that will neither hinder development nor contribute to the problems of environmental pollution.

"We hope that the developed world will take this into consideration," he added. "It merely leaves the developing countries in a 'vicious circle' predicament — where the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. There has to be some sort of formula satisfactory to everyone," he said.

The vanishing Earth....  
What's at stake?

## ■ ... Our health and survival

During the 1990s, the planet's meager resources will have to support three more people every second — the equivalent of 97 million more a year.

## ■ ... Fresh water resources

94 percent of the water on our planet is salty, rivers and seas are polluted and the quality and quantity of marine life has declined. Today, the human population can only count on an annual supply of around 9000 cubic kilometers of fresh water.

## ■ ... The air that we breathe

There are many kinds of air pollution, including smog, acid rain, pollutants from radioactive materials, tobacco smoke and chemicals. Long-term effects affect the health, destroy ancient monuments and, again, kill marine life.

## ■ ... Flora and fauna

Human activity is rapidly depleting the number of plant and animal species that live on the planet. Industry and agriculture depend on this biological diversity for many of their needs. Over the next 30 years, the number of losses are likely to increase to 15,000 - 50,000 species per year, or about 40 - 140 species per day.

## ■ ... The ozone layer

Two major environmental problems are confronting the planet: The possible destruction of the ozone layer, which protects life on Earth from the sun's harmful rays, and the threat of global warming. The latter is caused by the release of greenhouse gases, threatening human, plant and animal life. Both require urgent international action.

## ■ ... A chance for peace

Over the past 20 years global military expenditure totalled US\$ 17,000,000,000,000 — the equivalent of US\$ 1.6 million a minute. Military activity also consumes six per cent of the world's oil and as much aluminum, copper, nickel and platinum as Africa, Asia and Latin America put together.

## ARABIC LESSONS

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By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

RADIO JORDAN'S English service has taken a new stance to support Jordan's economic development by restructuring its commercial department and giving a chance to foreign and local investors to interact with the Jordanian market and local infrastructure.

"Jordan has good prerequisites for economic progress and foreign investments because of its political moderation and stability," said Jawad Zada, director of the English Service and a founder of Radio Jordan. He also added that the democratic movement and efficient infrastructure, in addition to limitless tourist resources facilitate economic revival and constitute a solid basis for new enterprises.

"As a regional radio station with the capacity of monitoring signals all over the globe, our intention is to air social, economic, political and religious facts about Jordan for other cultures. The current economic depression has created a new awareness about the necessity of searching for new ways of generating income. Advertising is one way and I strongly believe in it," Zada said.

The English Service has been addressing foreign communities and Arabic English speakers since 1973. They began with two hours of daily broadcasting, progressing throughout the years and attaining 17 hours by 1981.

On the air:  
Radio Jordan spreads the word

Jawad Zada

Transmission starts every morning at 7 am and closes at midnight.

According to Zada the English and Arabic service complement each other, although they have completely independent programs. They utilize and share the same technical and engineering facilities and together with Jordanian Television, merge under the same umbrella of governmental institutions.

Transmission goes through two relay stations located in Ajlun and Irbid and, for the last four years, they have had a short wave external service directed through

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**RADIO JORDAN**

and political, social and cultural reviews about Jordan and international features. As a voice of the government it records various aspects of Jordanian life tackling issues such as education, health, laws, social customs, religion and human rights.

"We talk about Islam in our programs, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, but we never have the intention of preaching the Koran or converting non-Muslims to our religion."

Our program is deliberately aimed at recapturing Ramadan's spiritual moods. It shows different aspects of our religion and customs through our own perspective," Zada explained.

Around 65 per cent of the English Service program is reserved for music items, they transmit mainly western and classical music and sometimes modern Arabic music with a western influence.

Talk programs present, besides news bulletins, radio dramas, special foreign and local features, reports on science innovations and technology, food, health, sports and history.

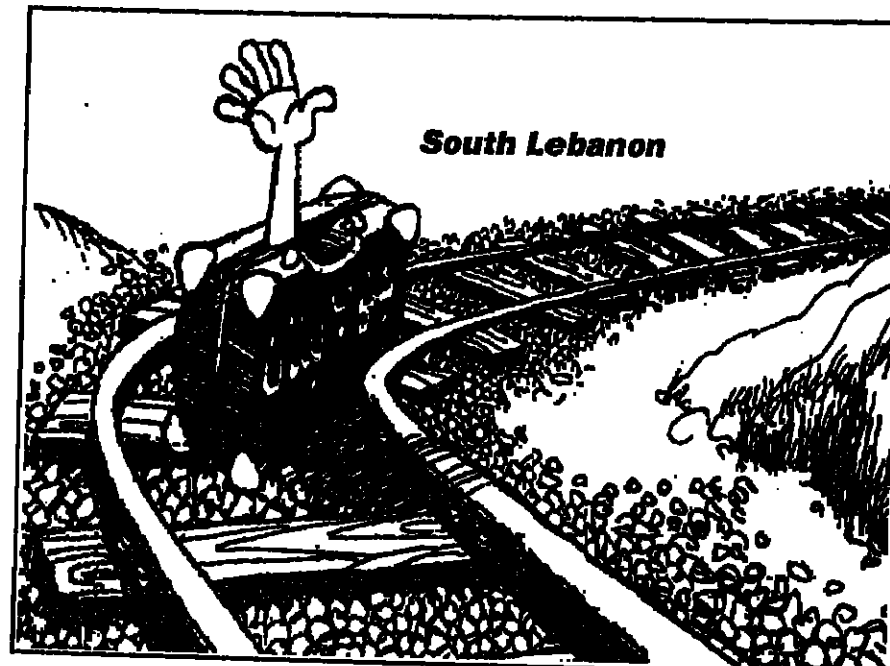
## Kharaneh station.

The staff consists of 26 employees, five of whom are contracted, while the rest are free lancers. This situation is due to their modest budget and low income, causing a constant fluctuation of employees to other mass communication institutions.

"New reporters are recruited yearly and put under short crash courses which give them the capacity of working in radio," said Zada. "However, after a while they leaving us looking for a better financial source." He sees a solution to this problem by increasing the budget of the radio and employing reporters on a regular basis.

The English Service program offers its listeners entertainment





## Our Say...

### Healing Lebanon's wounds

WHEN THE United States calls on all parties involved in South Lebanon's bloodletting to "exercise maximum restraint," it is actually telling the world that it doesn't give a hoot about what is happening there so long as the territorial status quo remains the same. In other words, let the Israelis teach Hizbollah militants a lesson, but they are not to venture into the south or occupy fresh territory — for the time being at least.

By doing so, the United States is adding insult to injury. While it is sponsoring a peace process for the Middle East, to which Lebanon, Syria and Israel are active parties, it is unwilling to indulge substantially in stopping this gashing wound from bleeding any further. The result is the wanton waste of innocent civilian lives and a further disruption in efforts to pacify Lebanon and restore legitimate authority over its territory.

But it would be unfair to direct all the blame to the United States, or even to Israel. Southern Lebanon could be swallowed by Israel at any moment and without much effort. All Israel needs at this point is a good excuse for doing so. In fact, South Lebanon could bring the downfall of the current peace process if the Arab side gives the Israelis the pretext they need to venture northward and expand their so-called security zone.

What is required at this stage is a sober analysis of the consequences of allowing Hizbollah bands of hot-headed fighters to continue to molest a sleeping giant. What is at stake is not only the rest of southern Lebanon, but also the security of Syria and the unity of Lebanon. With all due respect to Hizbollah's efforts to evict Israel from the territories it occupies in Lebanon, its paramilitary operations against Israel and the so-called South Lebanon Army (SLA) have only brought retaliations tens times as vicious, causing the loss of many innocent lives and the abandonment of many border villages.

Dealing with Israel's ambitions in Lebanon is not only the responsibility of the so-called international community, but is essentially that of the Arab world and all the non-Lebanese forces who are active on Lebanon's soil. Just as the Taif Agreement has helped disarm and disband Lebanon's warring militias, giving more leeway to a central government, the Arabs need to help the Beirut government extend its authority to the South. This will strip the Israelis of any excuse to suddenly decide to run over the rest of the South, and will give Lebanon's government a better bargaining position at the negotiating table. It will help resettle thousands of refugees back in their lands and villages, making it more difficult for Israel and its collaborators to infiltrate an exhausted South Lebanon.

Most of all, it is the responsibility of Iran and Syria, two countries who have been actively involved in Lebanese internal affairs, to help the beleaguered Lebanese government get out of the political and economic quagmire it has found itself sucked into. If the Arabs continue to regard Lebanon impartially, they risk not only losing the south, but the whole of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the United States and its allies can help restore order to Lebanon, by fostering Lebanon's economy. A strong central government can maintain law and order and can contribute meaningfully to the peace process. The United States can do more than call for restraint. It can and should engage all the parties involved in the hope of sparing the lives of South Lebanon's frightened population.

## Bosnia belies the alarmist view of Islam

The Bosnian crisis has turned the ideological tables on alarmists who have been interpreting every Muslim presence in Europe into a potential threat for the security of the continent.

By Shirley Rizvi

LONDON — The crisis in Bosnia Herzegovina has confronted extremist interpreters of the perceived threat from Islam with a major dilemma. The Bosnians fighting for their lives, and their freedom from Serbian hegemony, are European and Muslim but certainly not terrorist or fundamentalist.

For the first time since the Iran crisis of 1979 raised the specter of Islam as a threat to the West, western ideologues, peacemakers and media men have taken pains to deny allegations by Serbians and their backers that the Bosnians fighting a bloody war for survival are in fact moderate, ordinary Muslims with no brief to turn the region into a fundamentalist foothold on Europe.

This has not been welcomed, among others, by the Roman Catholic church leaders who were justifiably jubilant at the demise of communism but now see the revival of Islam, alongside the regeneration of Christian practice, as a growing annoyance. Hence the subtle moves to convince European peacemakers that Bosnian Muslims may not be worth saving.

One isolated incident, the ambush of a convoy of Serbian soldiers by the mainly Muslim Territorial Defense Force, was exploited by Serbian propagandists to counter numerous allegations of attacks by Yugoslav army and Serbian militia units. In the event UN and European community observers were reported to be in agreement with Belgrade, despite Bosnian clarifications and evidence on ground.

It is too early to see the play working. What with Serbian excesses exhausting the patience of peace-makers from the European Community, the United Nations and the United States, the Bosnians still have a more sympathetic press than the new "pariah" of Europe. But for how long? The Belgrade press is engaged in a concerted attempt to portray the Bosnians as "Muslim extremists" and erode European sympathy for their cause of independent existence.

The sympathy so far expressed towards Bosnians has stemmed from their precarious situation in the war. The Slavic Muslims, who make up the majority of Bosnia's 3.4 million population, have been squeezed out of large chunks of their territory. By last reports from the battlefield, Bosnia's government was in control of only a few square miles of the new state created after the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

The resulting crisis has implications not only for Bosnia's survival but also for Bosnia's leadership. Already there are indications that attitudes among the Bosnian fighters may be hardening in the face of increased pressure from the Yugoslav army and Serbian paramilitary forces encircling their last strongholds.

As one source returning from the area said, "Most Bosnians still support their president, Ali Izetbegovic, but there are rumblings of discontent. There is a groundswell of support for a more direct,

more radical retaliation against the Serbs. This would be deeply ironic. For several centuries the Bosnian capital enjoyed its reputation as the most cosmopolitan, and most liberal, of all cities in Yugoslavia. Intellectuals of all races and persuasions, including many Serbs and Croats, took comfort in its traditional hospitality and unquestionably embraced its Islamic culture.



Two elderly Muslims chatting in a Bosnian village

ture.

Until being divided by war, for example, Bosnians of Muslim and non Muslim origin invariably took their shoes off before entering their houses — a characteristically Muslim practice. The bazaars and mosques of Bosnia attracted deferential visitors of all cultures and creed and Bosnians returned those gestures by welcoming them.

Bosnians prided in their capital's reputation as the gateway between the Occident and the Orient. Now many suspect that this very reputation of tolerance is under a sustained attack from the regime of the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic and his cohorts.

Bosnians also suspect that the Croats are hand in glove with the Serbs in a plot to carve up their newly independent state. Although Serbs and Croats have been fighting bitterly over Bosnian territory, Bosnian leaders suspect that they are also heading towards 'deals' with the Serbs at the expense of Bosnia. This was indicated by Srdje Vuceljic, a Muslim leader in the Croat-Muslim enclave of Kiseljak.

The chain of events in the enclave, some 20 miles away from Sarajevo, may prove right the Bosnian suspicions. Originally half-and-half Muslim and Croat, the enclave is now administered almost entirely by Croats, and the Muslims have been excluded from the decision making process.

Amid suspicions that the pattern may be repeated elsewhere, Muslims are rethinking their strategy. They may have won the first few media battles and lost ground to their enemies, but the Bosnians are now weighing prospects of a counter-offensive, whatever its costs in terms of their 'image' abroad.

As one fighter said to a reporter, "We have worried about 'image' for long enough. Will we have an 'image' if we are dead?"

Academic File

Shirley Rizvi is executive editor of Academic File.

## Lebanon and the new government: Crisis of economic confidence

By Riad Al Khouri

AS A new cabinet comes in to try to deal with the country's worsening economy, Lebanon remains unable to cope with economic difficulties exacerbated by local and regional political struggle.

The new Solh cabinet was formally decreed less than two days before a labor union deadline for a second general strike this month. The first swept away the government of Omar Karame, which resigned May 6 after nationwide riots against the soaring cost of living. The new cabinet includes the heads of Lebanon's main militias, and most other ministers were also in the outgoing government.

The Solh cabinet does not look like it can be a team that will work to salvage the economy. It is not even certain that all ministers named will agree to take up their posts, or having taken them up will remain in them and cooperate with the regime. In particular, a warlord Samir Geagea refused his appointment. (He had also been named in Karame's government but declined.) And several others have expressed strong reservations.

The Solh cabinet will probably fail to produce confidence that the government can halt a steep economic decline. And, barring drastic (and unlikely) change, the new regime, like the Karame cabinet, could also come under fire for failing to end widespread official corruption. The Lebanese pound, buoyed when Solh was appointed earlier this month, has again weakened and the best that can be hoped for in the medium term is that it will remain at less than 1,600 to the dollar and not tumble to its previous record low of early May.

In attempts at a facelift and due to local political infighting, several new men have been brought in. These are mainly for window dressing, but the most notable among them is Dr Samir Makdisi, who will hold the Economy and Trade portfolio. Dr Makdisi is a political lightweight, though he has good connections with the West in general and the IMF and World Bank in



particular. He is a professional economist who heads the American University of Beirut's Institute of Money and Banking and he has worked recently on a committee of experts trying to come to grips with the crisis. His and the new cabinet's primary task will be to secure aid and investment to rebuild, but this is a very tall order in the present regional political context.

Despite the end of the civil war Lebanon continues to fail to attract substantial funds amid concern about widespread official corruption and the country's stability. Karame blamed his fall on Israel and its allies, accusing them of waging economic war to force Lebanon to multilateral talks and to distance itself from Syria. Lebanon's economy, ravaged by the civil war, has slipped into chaos since the conflict ended. Outside aid has not been forthcoming to pay for a reconstruction bill estimated at above \$20 billion.

The Lebanese pound plummeted to a record low of over 2,000 to the US dollar before Karame's downfall. (The pound was worth 880 in February.) The rapid decline

sent prices soaring in an economy that imports most basic needs. The 350,000-strong General Federation of Labor Unions, even if it does not immediately resume its nationwide strike demanding economic reforms, will probably engage in militant industrial action at the first hint of a renewed economic and monetary slide. Such action is becoming increasingly effective and organized along nonsectarian lines.

Investment by expatriates, the GCC states and others had virtually dried up over the past few months, dashing expectations of a start to reconstruction and economic recovery. Karame's cabinet was formed with a mandate to shore up an economy devastated in the 1975-1990 civil war. Lack of confidence in his government was responsible for the collapse of the economy and the currency.

The Central Bank still does not have enough reserves to enter the market and meet high demand for the dollar, and Lebanon cannot defend its currency in a situation like this. The Bank spent some \$400 million between last November and February trying to stabilize the pound but stopped intervening because foreign currency reserves had dropped to some \$650 million. They have not picked up much since then.

The government blames the fall of the pound on a foreign conspiracy to pressure Beirut to change policies on Arab-Israeli peace talks and distance itself from Damascus. But the government itself was largely to blame for the crisis due to widespread official corruption and for pinning its hopes on post-war foreign aid which failed to materialize.

Economic policy is being made by default, with the regime unable to move decisively on crucial issues facing the country. Dr Makdisi is proposing drastic changes including privatization, fiscal austerity, and a cut in public sector employment. Within the present context of little outside investment and no aid, such moves are almost impossible, or at best will be futile.

As well as the economy, the new government faces the task of overseeing the first parliamentary elections in 20 years (now set for July/August) and the scheduled withdrawal of Syrian troops to eastern Lebanon in September. The Solh government may not even be able to avoid being blamed for the previous cabinets' failures as the compositions of the two are very similar. Without a change in the regional equation, the government will be unable to come up with radical solutions to Lebanon's deep problems.

Lebanon's economic outlook for the coming months is bleak. Outside pressure will continue to exacerbate internal problems, making stable growth impossible and hitting the standard of living.

Riad Al Khouri is a Jordanian economic analyst.

## Regional ROUND-UP

BEIRUT — Artillery duels continued in South Lebanon for six successive days between Israeli troops and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) allies on one hand, and Hizbollah militiamen on the other. Ten Lebanese civilians were killed and 20 wounded in the duels that raged throughout the weekend. The new casualties brought to 26 the number of Lebanese killed and 45 wounded since air and ground hostilities broke out between the two warring sides. Last week, Israeli planes raided Hizbollah posts in the Lebanese Bekaa Valley after Hizbollah men attacked an SLA post, killing four men and capturing four others. Lebanon complained to the UN Security Council over the air raids against its territory. Thousands of Lebanese civilians left their villages in the south to safe areas to avoid the intense Israeli shelling. Israeli warplanes raided villages in South Lebanon, killing four civilians. Meanwhile, Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq Sharras said Israel was planning to launch war against his country, but added that Syria was ready for that possibility. Israel on the other hand said it was not seeking a confrontation with Syria, but added that Damascus has the authority to control Hizbollah activities in Lebanon's south. France criticized Israel for using heavy weapons in South Lebanon where the main victims were civilians.

ERBIL — Iraqi elections in northern Iraq were inconclusive forcing a run-off between the two top Kurdish leaders. Massoud Barzani won the most votes but not an absolute majority in the contest for the paramount leader of the Kurds, forcing a run-off with his rival Jalal Talabani. Baghdad continued to describe the elections as illegal. Smaller Kurdish parties complained of massive vote rigging in the first elections to be held in Iraq's Kurdistan.

ALGIERS — Algerian security forces killed a man and arrested 43 others in a gunbattle with Muslim fundamentalists who tried to stop a government-appointed cleric from preaching. The latest confrontation comes at a time when the government expects a rise in so-called terrorist operations by fundamentalists.

KHARTOUM — Following a series of battlefield successes, the Sudanese government sent its negotiators to Nigeria to talk with rebels in what appears the best chance yet to end the nine-year civil war in the southern Sudan. The government entered the negotiations, which started Tuesday, in an apparent dominant position for the first time.

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP — Three Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in a clash Sunday. An Arab from Gaza later stabbed a Jewish girl in Bat Yam, a town near Tel Aviv, sending a mob of Jewish extremists into the streets shouting for vengeance. They attacked Arabs, wounding some of them. The clash in Gaza between Israeli occupation troops and Palestinian gunmen was the bloodiest in the occupied territories in months. Israeli occupation troops shot and wounded 51 Palestinians in Gaza during protests which followed the gunfire clash. Scores of Palestinians were arrested. The Strip was closed for three days. Also in the occupied Gaza Strip, over 3,000 Palestinians demonstrated against the killing of Arabs suspecting of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

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## Israel extends its arm to tie up central Asian links

By Hugh Carnegie

TURKEY and Iran attract most of the headlines in the battle for influence in the central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. But Israel has wasted little time in establishing links it hopes will blossom into lucrative trade.

The Jewish state is anxious that the Muslim republics should not line up against it with fellow-Muslim Arab states and Iran, the most strongly anti-Israel state in the region. It has moved quickly to establish official relations with five of the six republics — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Kirghizia — but not Turkmenistan, and may soon have representative offices in the first two.

To underpin the diplomatic relationship — and establish a foothold in what is seen as a big potential export market — there are efforts to build trade links. It is a pattern Israel has followed in the past in regions such as South America and Africa and recently in China.

As many as 18 Israeli companies are said to have visited Kazakhstan, with at least three "doing serious business." Israel was one of the first countries to be put on a direct-dial telephone link by Kazakhstan.

Several Kazakh government delegations have been to Israel in recent weeks, including one led by the agriculture minister which held talks with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and was given lavish treatment. The Kazakh prime minister is expected this month.

Similar links have been established with Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. In a typical Israeli scheme, cotton yields at a farm in Uzbekistan were reported to have increased by 40 per cent on one-third of previous water consumption in one season through improved irrigation techniques.

David Kimche, a former director general of the Israeli foreign ministry who specialises in fostering delicate relationships such as that with China, has been building contacts in the central Asian republics in recent months. He says he has found "no hesitation" among them in forging links with Israel.

In South America, Africa and China, much of what Israel has offered has been military supplies. In public at least, the emphasis in central Asia has been on the republics' outmoded agriculture and communications systems — both areas Israel reckons it is ideally placed to upgrade.

"They believe we have a lot to offer in agricultural technology and food production," said Kimche. "He said there was interest also in studying the experience of Israel's collective" — but independent — Moshavim farms. Although these farms have been in difficulties, the Asian republics are said to be thinking of using the Moshav model in scaling down their huge collective farms left over from the Soviet era.

The risk for Israel is that the current secular-oriented regimes it is now getting close to will be replaced later, perhaps by more militantly Islamic governments. But that has not deterred the drive into the republics.

One Israeli company which has signed agreements for four pro-



Cotton farming in Uzbekistan: Israel has the experience

jects in Kazakhstan is Merhav, part of an Israeli-owned international private group Metropolitan Investments Corporation. With widespread experience in debt settlement, project development and trading in regions such as South America and Africa, it has taken the plunge in central Asia enthusiastically.

The four turnkey projects to refurbish outdated agricultural systems signed in January — one in cotton and one in tomato production — have a total value of \$35 million. But, as Yusef Maiman, the company chief admits, the deal is a calculated risk. It was concluded with the Kazakh government in three days in mid-February, barely a month after first contacts were made.

"You have to take decisions on the spot. A lot goes on intuition and you have to be fast to implement. We started ordering millions of dollars worth of equipment before the deal was finalized," said Maiman.

Merhav has had to spend a lot up front to get the projects moving. It has established a 25-person office in Alma Ata in Ka-

zakhstan. Getting equipment shipments to the distant, landlocked republic has been a logistical nightmare. The company uses its own private jet and charter flights to speed things up. In early April, a 14-truck convoy was sent back to Turkey from Iran causing a 20-day delivery delay.

Only a "small part" of the price is paid in hard cash. For the rest Merhav gets to pick from a Kazakh list of commodities which, like a menu in a flagging restaurant, has fewer items available than it first appears. Cotton and tomato paste will make up some of the payment, says Maiman.

But he insists Merhav will make money on these initial projects and foresees future business for Merhav in Kazakhstan of up to \$100 million a year.

"Yes, there is a particular value for Israel to be in a predominantly Muslim republic which has natural resources Israel may need over time," Maiman says. "But we are a business operation aiming to penetrate a market and to be profitable doing it. We wouldn't have got into it otherwise."

It is also unfortunate that for Gubser Jordan's real history seems to have started in the

## Book Review A handbook on the Kingdom of Jordan

By Pam Dougherty  
Special to The Star

THERE CAN be few greater challenges for an author than to reduce the complex history of a Middle Eastern country to a short dictionary format. In his *Historical Dictionary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*, Peter Gubser provides a history of Jordan, a dictionary and a bibliography all in just 140 pages.

The book is one of a series of Asian Historical Dictionaries, others have covered Vietnam, Bangladesh and Pakistan, published by the Scarecrow Press since 1989.

Gubser, who is president of American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), comes to his subject with a long experience of the region and a sympathy for its people. He gives a fourteen-page introductory history and then dictionary entries covering the key players, organizations, subjects and events in Jordan's modern history.

Gubser's tone is detached, for the most part he offers facts rather than interpretation although at times he presents certain still controversial issues as settled fact. The sensitive question of the balance between Jordanians and Palestinians in the population of Jordan is one outstanding instance where he seems to consider that one study carried out in the early eighties, which suggested a 55 per cent Jordanian 45 per cent Palestinian balance, settled the question.

It is also unfortunate that for Gubser Jordan's real history seems to have started in the

Bronze Age, its more ancient history rates only four lines. The dictionary entries also focus predominantly on the modern era. The last 20 years of archaeological work has brought to light a rich and vivid ancient past that has strengthened the country's individual identity and moved it away from previous perceptions that it was little more than an empty appendage of other more developed countries.

The book comes with a good if rather dated bibliography that would be useful for a reader wanting to go into the subject in more depth. For the most recent references one must look elsewhere. It also has a chronology for quick reference on just when the Babylonians did invade, the Ottomans arrived, which visitors from countries with a less ancient history find so necessary. Although again the most ancient times get little space.

Gubser's work is clearly designed more for the non-Jordanian reader than for a Jordanian reader and is useful as quick introduction to the country and a handy memory aid to anyone coming to live and work in the region. It can certainly equip them with a knowledge of the basic events in Jordan's history as a starting point for understanding and discussion. Interpretation in the end must come from the users' own further reading and experience.

*Historical Dictionary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*, by Peter Gubser, Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, N.J. & London.

# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

## Regards de Jordanie La "véritable" Indépendance

Le Jourdain inaugure une nouvelle rubrique. Chaque dernier jeudi du mois, Samir Khader, journaliste jordanien, apportera son regard sur la société, la politique, la culture... Cette semaine, à l'occasion du 46ème anniversaire, il nous fait revivre les moments historiques de l'Indépendance



Abdallah, premier souverain de Jordanie

Par Samir Khader

IL EST huit heures du matin, ce samedi 25 mai de l'an 1946. Les 16 hommes qui représentent le peuple de Transjordanie se retrouvent au complet, au siège de l'Assemblée législative à Amman. Une Assemblée qui tient lieu de Parlement, élu démocratiquement, selon les termes du suffrage universel direct. Une assemblée, à l'époque, pour cette région (ne l'est-elle pas encore). Pas plus d'une trentaine de personnes se trouvent dans la salle de réunion. Aux seize "députés", s'ajoutent les six membres du gouvernement (présidé par Ibrahim Hashem), et les quelques fonctionnaires de l'Assemblée. C'est la troisième séance de la session extraordinaire.

### Texte historique

Au menu de ce jour: l'amendement de la loi organique, qui faisait figure de Constitution de l'Emirat. Un projet de loi est sur le point d'être présenté par le gouvernement. Un texte historique qui va consacrer la rupture définitive avec toute une époque. Les visages des 16 "élus" affichent une certaine tension empreinte de sérénité et de détermination. Dans quelques minutes, le pays va rompre le cordon coloni-

al qui le lie à la puissance occupante: Londres. A haute voix, l'assesseur lit le texte du projet de loi, affirmant le droit et la volonté du "pays jordanien" à l'autodétermination et donc à l'indépendance. Aussitôt lu, aussitôt adopté. A l'unanimité. La liberté ne se discute pas. On ne l'accorde pas. Elle se mérite. Une certaine excitation s'empare alors des "députés" et des membres du gouvernement. Ils décident que "le plus tôt sera le mieux". La proclamation de l'indépendance ne peut, en effet, être effective qu'après l'accord de l'Emir du pays, appelé à devenir Roi.

Leur décision est prise. Ils se rendent en cortège au Palais de Raghadan, se font introduire auprès de l'Emir, et lui soumettent le texte à promulguer. Abdallah prend son stylo à plume et appose au bas du texte la phrase suivante: "En m'aidant de Dieu tout puissant, j'approuve cette décision, remercie mon peuple, et fais confiance en mon gouvernement".

C'est fait. Le Royaume Hashémite de Jordanie est né. Abdallah en devient le premier souverain. Le jour même, pour fêter l'événement, le peuple est convié à un grand défilé militaire. Le 25 mai est alors proclamé "Journée de l'Indépendance".

La séparation avec la puissance

coloniale n'a pas été aussi soudaine. Elle avait été savamment négociée à Londres, quelques mois plus tôt, par Abdallah en personne. Etant fils du leader de la fameuse Grande Révolte Arabe de 1916, il ne se satisfaisait pas de son rôle de chef d'un Etat sous tutelle étrangère. Ni de son destin d'héritier du mouvement de libération arabe.

Aux termes des négociations de Londres, le mandat britannique est remplacé par un "Traité d'Amitié et d'Alliance", entre le gouvernement de Sa Très Gracieuse Majesté et le gouvernement du jeune Etat naissant. Ce traité, conclu pour une durée de 25 ans, donnait à Londres le droit de maintenir des troupes en Jordanie, ainsi qu'un droit de regard sur les forces armées du pays.

Une situation qui n'a pas duré longtemps. Avant que dix autres années ne s'écoulent, ce traité a été dénoncé par un jeune souverain: Hussein. Moins de trois ans après son arrivée au pouvoir. Par un acte unilatéral, il expulse les officiers anglais du pays et ferme les bases britanniques de Jordanie, parachevant ainsi l'œuvre de son grand-père. Depuis lors, le Royaume Hashémite de Jordanie est "véritablement" indépendant.

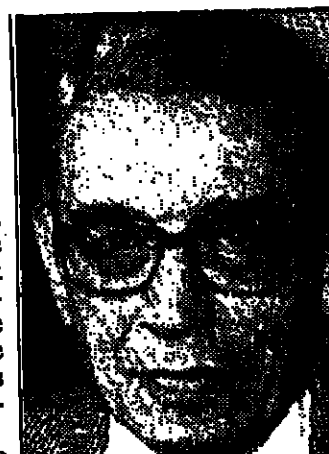
S.K.



## ONU Le premier bilan de Boutros Ghali

Le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies veut travailler avec les Organisations Non Gouvernementales(ONG)

"NOUS NOUS efforçons de travailler avec des institutions régionales et des organisations non gouvernementales". Boutros Ghali, dans un communiqué diffusé à Amman par le porte-parole de l'ESCWA, s'est livré jeudi à un bilan de ses 141 jours à la tête de l'ONU. "Jamais auparavant, l'ONU n'a semblé aussi populaire auprès de ses Etats-membres. Jamais ses services n'ont été demandés avec autant de fréquence, non seulement dans son rôle traditionnel de défenseur de la paix, mais aussi dans de nouvelles missions, comme l'aide aux institutions démocratiques dans les pays du tiers-monde" a-t-il déclaré.



Au mois de février, le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies a créé un nouveau poste de Coordinateur pour l'aide humanitaire avant de confier cette mission à Jan Eliasson. Son objectif ne se limite pas à organiser les relations entre les différentes agences de l'ONU. Boutros Ghali veut que cette fonction serve à tisser des liens entre les Nations Unies et des Organisations Non Gouvernementales(ONG).

Cette section s'est déjà illustrée dans l'assistance humanitaire à la Yougoslavie, au Soudan...

Selon Boutros Ghali, l'action la plus importante des N.U depuis son arrivée est l'opération au Cambodge, lancée le 28 février 1992. "Quand j'ai visité le pays à la mi-avril, affirme-t-il, j'ai été témoin des débuts prometteurs de l'Autorité Transitoire des Nations Unies. Il y a environ 360.000 réfugiés en dehors du Cambodge, nous avons déjà commencé d'apporter notre aide pour favoriser leur retour".

Après deux années de guerre civile en Somalie, le Conseil de Sécurité a adopté une résolution. "Il y a deux semaines, pour la première fois depuis longtemps, un bateau des Nations Unies qui transportait 5.000 tonnes de nourriture a été autorisé à accoster à Mogadiscio" précise Boutros Ghali.

Le Secrétaire Général de l'ONU n'a pas éludé les aspects négatifs de ce premier bilan: "En Yougoslavie, la situation est loin d'être satisfaisante. Aussi, nous n'avons pas encore eu en mesure de trouver un début de solution pour l'Afghanistan. Nous n'avons toujours pas enregistré de progrès au Sahara occidental, et je n'ai toujours pas réussi dans mes efforts autour de la Lybie".

Enfin, le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies a insisté sur les difficultés financières de l'Organisation. "Nos ressources financières subissent de plus en plus la pression d'une demande à la hausse".

Michel Armand

### A VOIR...

EXPOSITION - Travaux des élèves du collège de Nazareth jusqu'au dimanche 31 mai au CCF.

EXPO 2 - Peintures de Patrice Pain, du 4 au 22 juin. Les racines de l'art du jeune peintre français Patrice Pain sont ténues, courtes, elles ne plongent que dans l'art de ce siècle. Patrice Pain est l'héritier tout à la fois d'un néo-cubisme qui partait des "collages" à la Georges Braque, d'un surréalisme qui rappelle les "frottages" de Max Ernst et les "sablages" de Masson, d'un courant "nouvelle image" qui ferait fi de toute narration.

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France

# Bernard Tapie dans la tourmente

L'ex-ministre de la Ville a démissionné samedi. L'un de ses anciens associés, Georges Tranchant, député RPR l'accuse d'avoir détourné 13 millions de francs dans la vente d'une société commune.

"SI JE démissionne, cela veut dire que je reconnais que j'ai commis une faute, et donc que je subis une sanction". Ces propos de Bernard Tapie, ex-ministre de la Ville française, accordés la semaine dernière au quotidien le Figaro sont plus que jamais d'actualité. Samedi dernier, quelques heures plus tard, Tapie le "foncteur" a rendu son tablier. Il a présenté sa démission au Premier ministre, Pierre Bérégovoy, qui l'a automatiquement acceptée. Motif: Tapie devait être convoqué hier par le juge d'instruction parisien Edith Boizette. Et peut-être inculpé. L'homme d'affaires, président de l'Olympique de Marseille et ministre, est poursuivi par un de ses ex-associés, le député RPR Georges Tranchant, qui l'accuse d'avoir détourné à son profit, en 1985, 13 millions de francs lors de la vente de leur société commune.

## Contentieux

Au départ, le contentieux oppose deux amis de longue date. "Vous vous rendez compte, il me disait sans cesse: Georges, tu es mon frère" se plaint Tranchant. Les deux hommes, bien que de bords politiques opposés, étaient également associés. Ils détenaient à parité, 50,1% pour Tapie, et 49,9% pour Tranchant, Nippon Audio Video System (NAVS), société qui avait l'exclusivité des importations de matériel grand public du groupe japonais Toshiba. Très vite le bateau se met à tanguer. Les deux associés décident en 1985 de revendre leur fonds de commerce pour 1,8 millions de francs à Toshiba-France. A l'époque, l'affaire ne fait pas de vague.

Quatre ans plus tard, un inspecteur de la brigade financière,



Quand le doute s'empare du "gagneur"

qui enquête sur le groupe Tapie, demande à Tranchant s'il a des renseignements sur une somme de 13 millions qui aurait transité par la NAVS au moment de la vente. A ce moment là, le député RPR des Hauts-de-Seine commence à faire grise mine. Il est persuadé de s'être fait rouler.

Georges Tranchant prétend détenir la preuve que le fonds de commerce n'a pas été revendu 1,8 millions de francs, mais 13 millions de plus, dont il n'a jamais entendu parler. Cette somme aurait d'abord été virée sur le compte de la NAVS. Mais Tapie aurait contacté sa banque, la SDBO, filiale du Crédit Lyonnais pour faire transférer l'argent sur son propre compte. Il s'agissait d'une "erreur", aurait-il

déclaré. Pour justifier ce virement, le groupe aurait présenté une facture, laissant entendre que cette somme correspondait à des prestations réalisées pour le compte de Toshiba. Des prestations fictives selon Tranchant, qui a rangé son amitié et a porté plainte contre l'ex-ministre de la Ville.

Ces jours derniers, Bernard Tapie n'a cessé de contre-attaquer. Comme à son habitude, il a fait le forcing sur les antennes et dans les colonnes des journaux. Il a saisi le Tribunal de commerce de Paris, arguant que la procédure engagée par son ex-associé était trop tardive. Mais selon le juge, Edith Boizette, les éléments produits par l'homme d'affaires ne sont pas de nature à

empêcher son inculpation.

Bernard Tapie a demandé à être libéré de ses fonctions pour "mieux assurer, en toute liberté de parole, sa défense, y compris devant l'opinion publique". Dans sa lettre de démission transmise au Premier ministre, il affirme: "Devant l'acharnement que je subis à la suite d'un complot politique déclenché par un litige avec un député de l'opposition, j'ai décidé pour ma défense de retrouver toute ma liberté de citoyen". Quel qu'il arrive, cette situation met le gouvernement dans l'embarras. Le Premier ministre attend de la justice qu'elle fasse en toute indépendance et avec diligence la pleine lumière sur cette affaire.

F.M.

Roland Garros

## La JTV prend la balle au bond

Les demi-finales et finales en direct sur la deuxième chaîne. Tous les détails, avec Hala Zureigat, responsable des programmes en français. Interview

Le Journal: Roland Garros en direct sur la télévision jordanienne. C'est un événement exceptionnel ?  
Hala Zureigat: Tout le monde s'est mis sur son trente et un pour cette occasion. Aussi bien la Direction des relations internationales, chargée des connexions avec le satellite, que le service des sports ou celui des programmes en français. C'est un programme spécial, que nous diffusons depuis au moins une dizaine d'années... Comme d'habitude, les Jordanien pour suivent les demi-finales et finales en direct sur la deuxième chaîne. Mais cette année, nous leur proposons un plus. Nous diffusons tous les soirs, à partir de 23h00, un résumé des principaux événements de la journée. Vous saurez tout sur l'actualité courts, sur les coulisses des

internationaux de France, si vous choisissez la deuxième chaîne... Ce programme nous vient des UER, des images-satellite de l'Union Européenne de Radiodiffusion.

L.J.: Le programme ?  
Hala Zureigat: Je vous le livre dans les détails. Le 4 juin, vous pourrez assister, devant votre téléviseur, aux demi-finales du simple dames, et ce de 15h00 à 20h30-21h00. Le lendemain, le 5 juin, l'antenne sera réservée aux demi-finales du simple messieurs, de 13h00 à 20h30-21h00. Enfin, les finales. D'abord celles du double messieurs et du simple dames qui seront retransmises dans leur intégralité le 6 juin, de 15h00 à 20h30. Le clou du spectacle sera programmé le 7 juin: il s'agit bien sûr de la finale du simple messieurs, qui débutera à

16h00 et devrait se terminer aux alentours de 20h30... Comme vous pouvez le voir, la JTV réaffirme sa volonté de diffuser les matchs internationaux, de coller à l'actualité sportive du moment. Dans ce cadre, Roland Garros est un événement que la JTV ne peut pas manquer...

L.J.: Du tennis à longueur de journée. Cela ne va pas manquer d'irriter les anti-sportifs ?  
Hala Zureigat: Roland Garros va passer sur la deuxième chaîne. C'est vrai que certains programmes vont être les victimes de cette retransmission exceptionnelle. Les programmes en français, par exemple, devraient être décalés. Ou carrément reportés à la semaine suivante. En fait, tout dépend de la durée des matchs. Chaque jour, le tennis va occuper l'antenne jusqu'à 19h00, en direct et sans interruption. Mais rassurez-vous, les informations ne seront pas touchées. C'est valable pour les trois journaux, en français, en hébreu et en arabe. Pendant ce temps, les services techniques de la JTV vont enregistrer les derniers échanges. Ces

derniers seront diffusés en léger défilé. Vous avez peur de ne pas voir y retrouver ? Ne vous inquiétez pas, une speakeasy pourra intervenir à tout moment pour vous tenir au courant de l'évolution des programmes. Pour les gens qui n'aiment pas le tennis, ma réponse sera claire. Ils pourront regarder la première chaîne...

L.J.: Pourquoi avoir choisi la deuxième chaîne qui n'est pas reçue par toute la Jordanie. La première, chaîne de grande écoute en Arabe ne serait-elle pas mieux ?  
Hala Zureigat: Habituellement, la deuxième est la chaîne du sport. Ce qui n'empêche pas la première d'avoir son magazine sportif en arabe tous les vendredis. La première chaîne a ses programmes et nous ne voulons pas y toucher. Si les Jordanien du sud, qui ont des problèmes de réception, veulent regarder le tennis, ils le pourront. Car nous allons faire un effort particulier de transmission. Ainsi tout le monde pourra suivre les internationaux de France de Tennis.

L'EDITO

## Assez!

IL EST des circonstances où les atrocités commises par les forces armées et la police israéliennes à l'encontre des civils palestiniens retiennent l'attention de la communauté internationale. Autant que les 18 millions d'Africains menacés par la faim, voire la mort. La sécheresse frappe la quasi-totalité des pays de l'Afrique australe.

Le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, lui-même Africain, lance un appel aux consciences, et engage une campagne. Objectif: 835 millions de dollars. La rançon que devra payer la communauté des nations pour sauver une bonne partie de l'humanité.

Fait unique, les Nations Unies entrent de plain-pied dans une gigantesque opération humanitaire au profit d'une des régions les plus vulnérables au monde.

L'appel à l'aide à l'Afrique, lancé depuis la chambre du Conseil de tutelle à New York le 26 mai, sera suivi par une Conférence Internationale qui se tiendra à Genève au début du mois de juin. Les pays donateurs devraient répondre à Boutros Ghali, non seulement en remplissant l'enveloppe, mais aussi en mobilisant les ONG actives sur le continent noir, en vue d'aider ces populations à s'aider elles-mêmes.

La CEE, dans le cadre de la Convention de Lomé, enverra le pas et les mécanismes de cette Convention se mettront en marche afin d'éradiquer les causes de la famine. D'autres puissances, comme le Japon et le Canada, ne pourront pas se permettre de rater cette occasion.

La famine a encore une fois frappé, et toujours au même endroit. Il est grand temps que les paroles de Ghali se traduisent en actions concrètes, en vue d'instaurer non seulement un système d'alerte avancé contre ce fléau. Mais aussi dans le but de réanimer les capacités productrices de ces pays parmi les moins avancés.

La coopération devrait s'orienter vers des projets de productions endogènes garantissant l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Si les Nations Unies sont crédibles dans leur nouvelle donne, leurs organisations spécialisées, notamment le PNUD ou la PAM, mais aussi la Commission économique en Afrique, devraient venir à bout du problème de la famine qui souille l'image de la communauté des nations du 21ème siècle.

Que les efforts de guerre, qui ont épuisé les "pays du front" contre l'Afrique du sud soient redéployés dans des programmes civils et que les marchands d'armes internationaux transfèrent leurs tanks en trousseau. Qu'ils substituent engrais et semences aux munitions et à la poudre.

Moteur

# Jean-Pierre Maury: "Le cinéma français, c'est la vie"

Le Directeur de la cinémathèque régionale dévoile ses cartes avant la Semaine du cinéma français actuel, du 1er au 5 juin au CCR. Un mélange de tradition et de modernité. Avec une constante: l'émotion. Clap, quatrième

"LE CINEMA FRANÇAIS, c'est la vie, on passe du rire aux larmes. C'est l'émotion..." Lorsqu'il parle de sa passion, Jean-Pierre Maury, directeur de la Cinémathèque régionale (14 pays) s'empare, part dans de grandes envolées lyriques. Son but: convaincre. Vendre la quatrième Semaine du cinéma français, qui se tiendra au Centre Culturel Royal du 1er au 5 juin. Il attend 1.000 spectateurs. Soit 200 par soirée.

Ses arguments ne manquent pas. D'abord, elle est exclusive. Ces films sont réservés à la Jordanie. Ensuite: "Les gens pensent qu'en dehors de Delon et de Belmondo, il n'y a rien. Nous voulons leur montrer que le cinéma français, c'est autre chose".

C'est quoi? "Ce n'est pas un cinéma élitiste, c'est un cinéma universel qui touche aussi bien les Chinois que les Jordanien". Pourquoi fait-il si salle comble? "Parce que les gens éprouvent le besoin d'aller se voir. L'écran doit être un miroir de nous-mêmes, l'occasion de pratiquer une introspection. Vous voyez, nous sommes bien loin de B.T. l'extraterrestre et de Terminator".

## Tradition et modernité

La semaine du "cinéma français actuel" mélange deux concepts apparemment antagonistes: tradition et modernité. En cinq films, elle devrait donner un panorama satisfaisant du "style français". Pour l'ouverture, Jean-Pierre Maury a choisi une valeur sûre: Bertrand Tavernier avec "La vie et rien d'autre" (1er juin à 20h00). César 89 du meilleur film. Il a également obtenu le prix spécial du jury au festival du film européen de Berlin en 1989. Le décor n'est que ruines, après la guerre de 14-18 entre la France et l'Allemagne. Mais les images nous font entrer dans l'univers sentimental de deux femmes, Alice (Pascal Vignat) et Irène (Sabine Azéma), qui sont à la recherche, l'une de son fiancé, l'autre de son mari.

Leurs destins se croisent à Grez-sur-Loire, où un train sanitaire a été enfoui dans un tunnel. Les familles affluent. Dellaplane (Philippe Noiret), qui dirige un bureau de recherches et d'identification des disparus fait une étrange découverte: les deux femmes recherchent le même homme. Puis, Dellaplane tombe amoureux d'Irène. Mais leur union reste au point mort. Dellaplane recule et quitte l'armée... "Ce film est dans la lignée des grands films de qualité français", affirme le directeur de la Cinémathèque régionale.

A travers les personnages, se dévoilent l'absurdité et l'horreur de la guerre. Ils témoignent avec plus d'efficacité que le "Soldat inconnu", corps d'un anonyme déposé sous l'Arc de Triomphe à Paris.

Le deuxième temps fort s'est la rencontre entre deux géants: Jean-Pierre Maury et Chabrol (Mercredi 3 juin). Résultat: "Vous pouvez aller voir Madame Bovary et fermer les yeux", ironise Jean-



"Un monde sans pitié", film culte d'Eric Rohan.

Pierre Maury. C'est un film d'une incomparable précision, comme le livre. Mais Chabrol ne se contente pas d'adapter l'écrit à l'écran. Il prend ses aises, s'éloigne parfois du roman. Emma Bovary, Isabelle Huppert, se débat pour sortir la tête de ce cadre étouffant qu'est la province. Son jeu et son intelligence dépassent parfois le personnage dans son indolente décadence. Il n'en prend que plus de relief. Emma Huppert se heurte à Bovary-Balmer. Son mari est l'incarnation même de la médiocrité. Pire: il est balourd.

## Les jeunes et les femmes

Après les grands classiques, la semaine du cinéma français actuel nous entraîne dans l'univers de deux types de cinéastes: les jeunes, et les femmes. Dans la première catégorie, Eric Rohan fait figurer de tête d'affiche. Son film, "Un monde sans pitié" (mardi 2 juin), qu'il a eu du mal à terminer faute d'argent, a atteint le rang de film culte. "Qu'est-ce qu'ils nous ont laissé? Les larmes qui changent, le grand marché européen? On a que dalle! On n'a plus qu'à tomber amoureux..." et ça, c'est pire que tout.

Ces paroles sortent de la bouche de l'anti-héros parfait, qu'interprète un tout jeune acteur, Hippolyte Girardot. Hippo pour les intimes. Ce débauché ne croit en rien, il ne travaille pas, n'a pas de passion. Il aime son frère et son copain. C'est tout. Il vit une vie décausée, dissolue. Puis il croise le regard de Nathalie (Mireille Perrier) qui lui sourit mais ne se jette pas à son cou. C'est une normalienne, une bossue, tout le contraire d'Hippo.

A travers ce film, la jeunesse jordanienne rencontre son homologue française. Mais aussi un style à la mode: "C'est la nouvelle nouvelle vague", affirme Jean-Pierre Maury, depuis cinq ans le marché français fait connaissance avec les nouveaux Chabrol, Tavernier, Truffaut... Ils s'appellent Rohan, Beineix, Chaillet... Ce sont des gens pétris d'images de pub, le ton est plus rapide, mais les sujets sont réalistes. Ils se rapprochent du cœur plus de la vie quotidienne.

Il ajoute: "Des films comme 'Un monde sans pitié' ont fait un véritable triomphe en France. Cela se chiffre par millions de spectateurs". "Un monde sans pitié" a obtenu le César 89 de la première œuvre et le prix Louis Delluc de la même année.

Deuxième catégorie: les films réalisés par des femmes. Jean-Pierre Maury: "Le cinéma a féminin a une grande importance en France, c'est par exemple, terminée, faite d'argent, à atteindre le rang de film culte. Qu'est-ce qu'ils nous ont laissé? Les larmes qui changent, le grand marché européen? On a que dalle! On n'a plus qu'à tomber amoureux..."

Autre film de cette semaine exceptionnelle choisi par Jean-Pierre Maury, directeur de la Cinémathèque régionale: "Jacquot de Nantes" d'Agnes Varda (Jeudi 4 juin). La réalisatrice raconte les souvenirs de jeunesse de son

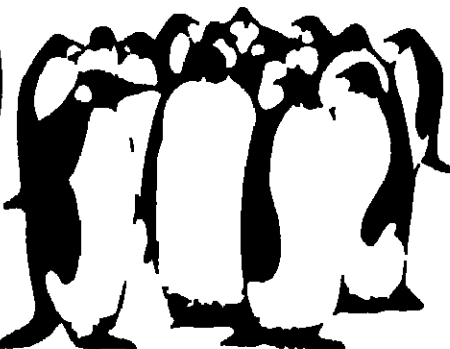
mari, Jacques Demy. Il était une fois un garçon élevé dans un garage, où tout le monde aimait chanter. C'était en 1939, le garçon avait huit ans, il aimait les marionnettes et les opérettes. Il voulait faire du cinéma, son père lui a fait étudier la mécanique... Agnès Varda lève le voile sur une enfance heureuse, malgré les événements de la guerre et de l'après-guerre. Encore un film typiquement français: "Il est hors du temps et de l'espace, il est intemporel..." Des qualités particulières, que l'on retrouve aussi dans le cinéma italien. Des points forts qui sont continuellement mis en valeur en Jordanie. Ces jours-ci, le Centre Culturel Français programme un cycle Richard Bohringer. Le 21 juin, à l'occasion de la fête de la musique, le CCF présente deux films musicaux français. Le premier pour les enfants: il s'agit d'un dessin animé, tiré des Misérables de Victor Hugo, remodelé version Jean-Jacques Debout et Chantal Goya. Le soir, les années 60 seront à l'honneur, avec "Souvenirs, Souvenirs" film d'Arjel Zelouan.

Ce n'est pas tout: le 25 juin, lors de la célébration en France de la fête du grand écran, le CCF vous convie à une Nuit du cinéma. Avec collation. Au programme: "La femme secrète" (1989) de S.Gral avec Philippe Noiret et "Poussière d'ange" de E. Niernans avec Bernard Giraud. Toutes ces manifestations s'inscrivent dans une "campagne de sensibilisation au cinéma français. Le cinéma de l'émotion."

Francis Mazoyer



# AROUND TOWN



**Congratulations!**  
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....  
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● The Jordan Rally organized by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), concluded on Friday 22 May, with the following results from the Jordan Drivers Open Championship, drivers of B and S cars: Marouf Abu Samra, Mohammad Shishani, Saleh Al Baba, Mohammad Mattari and Majdi Al Jallad. In the Middle East Rally Championships, results for drivers of A and S cars were as follows: Abbas Musawi from Qatar, Dimitrios Mavropoulos from Cyprus, Maurice Sahnawi from Lebanon, Andreas Tsoulfas from Cyprus and Mamdouh Khayat from Saudi Arabia.  
On Saturday a prize giving ceremony was held at the Marriott Hotel under the patronage of HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein.

● Next week will see a concert with a difference at the British Council. The Amman Players, a 20 piece music ensemble, will be holding their first concert for the public next Wednesday, 3 June at 8 pm. Presenting a novel combination of classical, romantic, jazz and Arabic music, the concert will feature works by Beethoven, Schubert, Bizet, Cole Porter and the Beatles.  
Lead of the Amman Players, Self Al Din Shehadeh, describes the players as "an independent group, working together to produce music for the people. We want to revitalize the musical movement in Jordan, that's why we're giving a selection of different types of music." The Amman



● On Monday 25 May, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker and Mrs Shaker hosted a reception attended by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to celebrate the Kingdom's 46th Independence anniversary.

Players are more keen to make music than to make money. Next week's concert will be free, and future plans include fund-raising charity performances.  
"We want to move around Jordan," said Shehadeh, "maybe to Irbid, or to Petra to cater for tourists. We want to appeal to everyone — on all levels of society."

● Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, secretary-general of the United Nations, has decided to extend the relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Amman until the end of August 1993. The United Nations Chief also agreed on holding ESCWA's 16th Ministerial session in the Jordanian capital during the period 30 August and 3 September 1992. During the session, representatives of

the 13 ESCWA member countries will debate the UN regional Commission's Medium-Term Plan (1992-1997), and will adopt various resolutions aiming at encouraging regional cooperation, social and economic development and reconstruction in Western Asia.

## Agenda

### Films

■ At 7:00pm, Sunday 31 May the American center will be presenting "One flew over the cuckoo's nest", starring Jack Nicholson.

■ The Goethe-Institut will present "In the Silver Lion Kingdom", on 30 May at 8:00 pm.

### Exhibitions

■ The Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation is exhibiting paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafe' Nasiri until 18 June from Saturday to Thursday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

■ An exhibition of paintings by Iraqi Artist, Abed Al Jabar Salim will be displayed at the Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition will be open until 31 May, daily 10 am - 1:30 pm and 4 - 7 pm.

### Lectures

■ As part of its research program on "Amman, the City and its Society", CERMOCC will be presenting a lecture by Dr Kamal Jalaka, entitled "The role of Interest Groups on Urban Design in Amman". The lecture will be presented on 4 June at 6 pm.

### General Meetings

■ The American Women of Amman are having their annual general meeting, 2 June, from 4 to 6 pm at the Marriott Hotel. All members and their guests are welcome.

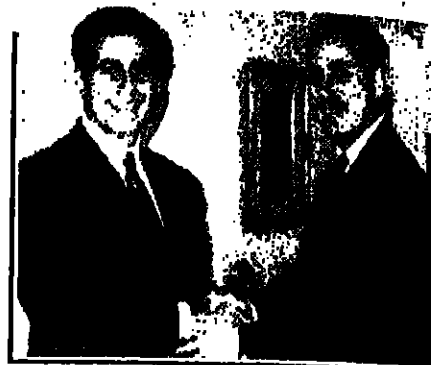
## Horizon establishes new operation in Jordan

● HORIZON HAS announced the opening of its newest operation in the Middle East Advertising network, in Amman, Jordan. Mr Saad Hijawi, managing partner, is in charge. He is also responsible for overseeing the activities of the Kuwait office, an operation he jointly founded in 1976 with Mr Rafic Saadeh, currently Chairman of Horizon.

"It is an opportune time to be in Jordan," comments Mr Hijawi. "The market is undergoing change, impacted by an influx of former residents of Kuwait who are looking to invest, to begin new businesses - with the experience necessary to make these new ventures work!" He continues, "The market will move forward with the injection of new life and innovative ideas."

Mr Hijawi also oversees the agency's Kuwait office and is pleased with the speedy reestablishment of that operation. "Kuwait is progressing," he states, "We were back in business within days of the liberation and we are optimistic about a steady, secure recovery."

Mr Saadeh commented, "The opening of Amman fits well in our long term plans for the overall growth of the Horizon network. Horizon has reached a stage where we can offer market for opportunities, and then move quickly to take advantage of them. The Amman setup demonstrates this capability. We are planning to make a number of innovative marketing moves which I anticipate will open new areas to benefit the entire network."



Mr Saadeh and Mr Hijawi

## Optima Colors from Bausch & Lomb



● BAUSCH & LOMB, the world's leading eye care specialists present a new generation in contact lenses, Optima Soft Lenses.

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The advanced Optima lens is acclaimed throughout the world for clarity of vision, comfort and safety. Optima Colors are easy and convenient to use, the perfect lenses for daily or occasional wear.



## Plaza Hotel honors employees

● During a ceremony at the Amman Plaza Hotel, Mr Gerald Lawless, vice president of Forte Hotels, in the Middle East and in Africa, presented 5 year service certificates with symbolic badges to employees who have spent 5 years of continuous service with the Plaza since its opening in 1987. Also pictured are Mr Charles Barker, the Plaza's new general manager, who replaces former manager Mr Louis Cavizel.

Chevy Chase

## Hollywood funny man goes undercover

By Bob Thomas

HE FIRST crashed into the public eye with his perilous falls on the early *Saturday Night Live* television shows. Inevitably, Chevy Chase's brash, smart-alec antics brought him to Hollywood, and he starred in *Foul Play* with Goldie Hawn. He followed with *Caddyshack*, another box-office winner.

Chase's film career flourished in such bombs as *Under the Rainbow*, *Modern Living* and *Oh! Heavenly Dog*. He went through bad times with his personal life, with divorces, bad publicity, and a session at the Betty Ford Clinic to rid himself of dependence on drugs for a back ailment.

His career turned around with such hits as *National Lampoon's Vacation* and *Fletch*, and he found a happy marriage with his wife Jayni, mother of his three daughters. His new film is a sequel, *Fletch Lives*, in which he repeats his role as a Los Angeles reporter with a flair for disguises.

Bob Thomas: Is there a danger in attempting a sequel of a successful film?

Chevy Chase: Well, you never know what is going to happen. You never know. There have been many scripts for this character that I've turned down. Then, scriptwriter, Leon Capetanos came up with some very funny ideas. He's from the south, he lived there. And I said, "OK, let's do it!" I think I was taking it on its own merits rather than on the question of being too risky. I don't think there's anything wrong with sequels. In fact, the only criticism so far I've heard about sequels is that some people don't do them.

BT: "Fletch Lives" is really not a sequel, is it?

CC: No, it's just carrying on a character. That's all *Rocky* and *Rambo* were - the same character, different setting.

BT: How would you describe the character of Fletch?

CC: Glib. That's it. It's the best I could come up with. Able to see through the easy things, given the characters he plays off. And funny. He's a strange guy, because ultimately he's a man who is willing to put on funny teeth, hair, nose, and risk his life to get information. I would say he's a contrived character. And he's very much like me.

BT: Is he also really daring?

CC: I guess he's daring. Stupidly so, but he's daring. Well, let's look at it as if this was a real person. He has values, morals, he cares about people, he cares for his safety... that's clear; he doesn't like to pass up on a story. He's an investigative reporter, he tends to want to follow up. I'm looking for some depth in him when you ask me that question, and I don't see it in that character; he's a shallow fellow.

BT: Is Fletch a fun character to play?

CC: Well, the part I had the most fun with is the part that is like me, which is Fletch not in costume, not in a wig and make-up. I enjoyed inventing a lot of the things that he does with his briefcase in his apartment, punching the boss in the office and then



Screen Star Chevy Chase.

blaming it on the next guy. All of that comes easy for me, it's the kind of stuff I do. It's funny, it's basically physical humor. It's the kind of thing that everybody wishes they could do, little bit wise guy stuff.

The characters that needed disguises are very tough to play. Rather than finding them easy, I find it very difficult. The only way I can really make them work (when and if they do), was by letting the prosthetics do the acting, putting the teeth in and seeing what comes out. There's nothing wrong with that.

BT: Do people identify Chevy Chase as being like Fletch?

CC: That's the danger of doing this character. I get a lot of bad criticism for it because he is such a wise guy. And it looks so easy for me to do. I'm a hell of a lot deeper than that, I'm not that way in real life, but there are elements in the character that I am like. The prankster. I love physical comedy. Those elements are appealing to large college audiences.

BT: As your career developed, you could have been a writer.

CC: I was a writer. I still am.

BT: How did you work into acting?

CC: It was almost a progression. Actually, I had performed for about a year and a half in a play called *Lennings*, and I did the *National Lampoon Radio Hour*. But most of the time I was writing.

When I was hired for *Saturday Night Live*, I was to write, not perform. It was a lucky kind of thing that (Producer) Lorne Michaels said "I think you ought to try doing the newsmen. And incidentally, since you ought to try doing the newsmen and you do those funny falls, why don't you open the show with one?" So basically I had two things to do: Fall down, say, "Live from New York - it's *Saturday Night Live*," and write my news update. And that was the beginning of something that became a career in acting.

BT: Supposing that hadn't happened. You hadn't been on *Saturday Night Live* and had all that exposure. Where would you be?

CC: I'd probably be writing. And I don't know how good I'd be, either. By now, I would have learned how to write screenplays. They might have been choppy.

counter directors who don't understand this kind of looseness? CC: With Michael Rennie it's always a fight. His concept and mine comically don't always mesh, so we're always jabbing at each other, but in a friendly way. But it's all give and take. He allows me compromises. He may not do it the way I think it should be done. He may set up the shoot wrong. He may have done some writing himself that stinks! This is very common to Michael. And I will give him my opinion. And he will say, "This is the way I want it" or, "All right, let's try it your way." So that's nice, that's good. There's compromise there without wasting money and time.

BT: What's your life like now? CC: It's too ordered. It's too busy. I have my wife and three children, that's really my life. This could all go any day - you never know. I have a feeling it won't and I'll be around a long time, but it doesn't matter as much to me as my home life. I think that all actors will say that too, just to look good. In fact, it's a reality.

I'm very close to my family, and I'm very much a home person. I don't get out much so I have to build my business around that. I try to shoot near my house. I will not shoot away from home for more than three weeks at a time without being with my family. That doesn't mean bringing them to me. I'll go to them. And the rest of the time, I'm working on these projects I've developed at Warner Brothers.

BT: Do you see your fellow comedians socially?

CC: Yeah. Marty Short is a good friend. He lives in the same area that we do. We all have our kids over on the weekend and put them in the swimming pool. We sit and chat about business or we joke or laugh about old times. One exception there is Steve Martin who is one of my best friends and who has no children and never will. So it's kind of a laugh to get him over and make

him spend time with the kids. He has no affinity at all with kids.

BT: When you were growing up was there a movie that made a profound impression on you? CC: *On the Waterfront*, *Shane*, *High Noon*. Fellini's movies. All of Chaplin's. All of the Marx Brothers' pictures. Those are movies Dad took me to. Otherwise I didn't see movies. I didn't see any television. We were readers basically. Certain Chaplin pictures had a great effect on me. I just love him. And only more recently Buster Keaton. Those (Chaplin and Keaton) are two of the greats.

BT: You've had your ups and downs. Were there any downs that were very discouraging?

CC: Sure! I've had my downs. I don't know what to say about them.

BT: You've survived them?

CC: Well, apparently, it's never been reflected in my salary. It's just gone up and up and up. I've never taken a drop. In fact it's only gone up after each picture-bomb or not. Something is working in terms of the business.

Emotionally, it's always nerve-racking to open a movie and sense that you are going to get bad criticism. You hope that the audience will like it and not read the reviews. It's almost like an identity check. You know, a mark of where you stand in society. And it's silly to take it that seriously. So I've never really been that affected by any of the bombs.

Emotionally, deeply, it probably hurts whenever a critic writes something about me that's bad. It hurts. It hurts me to see them write about my friends. It hurts to get phone calls from my friends, "Did you see what so-and-so wrote about me?" Oh, that hurts! Because we're just out there to make people laugh, to make a buck, to make many bucks, and to make many people laugh. ■

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# The Star's Guide

Programs on  
Jordan  
Television  
from  
30 May -  
5 June

## ENGLISH PROGRAM

### SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.  
9:00 — Encounter.  
9:30 — Environment. How to save the earth and its natural resources from pollution.  
10:00 — News in English.

### SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings. Sports and Leisure.  
9:10 — Documentary: Fragile Earth.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Law and Order: Wages of Love. Mrs Colin who was deserted by her husband commits the double murder of her husband and his girlfriend.

### MONDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest.  
9:10 — Capital City: Episode 8.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Gold. Lily, Johnny Rogan's friend, leaves her father's tavern to join a travelling artist group which turns out to be bad company.

### TUESDAY

8:30 — Princesses.  
9:10 — Palace Guard: The Three Minute Egg. A policeman makes a dirty deal with a well known thief.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Oscar Film: Stalag 17. Starring William Holden. The story of Stalag 17, a German camp for prisoners of war during World War II.

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the bell.  
9:10 — Documentary: Bicycle The Green Machine.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Challenger.

## THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons.  
9:10 — NBA Basketball.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Movie of the Week: A Mother's Courage. Starring Larry Williams. The true story of Mary Thomas, a poor black widow and her struggle to provide her eight sons with an education and a decent life.

### FRIDAY

8:30 — Coach.  
9:10 — E.N.G.: A brief madness.  
10:00 — News in English.



Palace Guard, Tuesday at 9:10

10:20 — Chief Inspector Morse: Last Seen Wearing.

## FRENCH PROGRAM

### SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Tortues Ninja.  
6:30 — La Gymnastique. A new series focusing on the life of a girl gymnast.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Magazine E-M6. A scientific magazine.  
10:20 — Feature Film: Le

Squale Collection Meurtre. A man who witnessed a car accident, refrains from testifying in court in fear of the government.

### DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.  
5:45 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.  
6:15 — L'Ecole des fans.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:00 — Carrel de notes. A program on classical music.

### LUNDI

6:00 — Le Monde Sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

### MARDI

6:00 — Les Tortues Ninja.  
6:30 — Marc et Sophie.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

### MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety cultural program.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Intertropiques. The agriculture magazine on Africa.

### JEUDI

6:00 — Les sanctuaires sauvages. A documentary program about animals.  
6:30 — Maguy.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Le Cirque du Soleil. International circus.

### VENDREDI

5:30 — Docteur Teyran.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Fusions. A cultural program.

## HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**ARIES** (21 March - 19 April): Start whatever you've been putting off. Keep a lid on your temper, though.

**TAURUS** (20 April - 20 May): Your best time this week comes at the end. Make decisions, especially those of mutual trust.

**GEMINI** (21 May - 20 June): Your appetite for knowledge should be voracious this week, so get busy.

**CANCER** (21 June - 22 July): Hopefully, your garden is in by now. If it's not, Monday will be pretty good, and so will Friday.

**LEO** (23 July - 22 August): Your leadership ability may be called into service, to keep the lid on a potentially disruptive situation.

**VIRGO** (23 August - 22 September): A stable relationship may feel a little rocky this week. Don't worry, it's just taking time to develop.

**LIBRA** (23 September - 22 October): An argument in the middle of the week may threaten to disrupt the status quo.

**SCORPIO** (23 October - 21 November): Just stand put, Scorpio, your stability may come in handy. There could be a lively discussion this week.

**SAGITTARIUS** (22 November - 21 December): Get in there and stir it up this week. Your perspective and especially your sense of humour will be highly appreciated.

**CAPRICORN** (22 December - 19 January): This week marks the beginning of a transition period. Study your options, so you can move quickly.

**AQUARIUS** (20 January - 18 February): Your chance to make a major move forward is increasing daily. Hopefully, you are ready.

**PISCES** (19 February - 20 March): Try not to get upset by an insensitive cloud. There's a big push for change.

**IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK:** This is a year for intellectual stimulation. Pick out a subject you want to know more about and tackle it. Go ahead and take on a challenge! You're not always quick anyway, but this year it will be a real tiger! Pick a cause you can really get your teeth into and you may end up with a new career direction, too. And, it also looks like the way to find your perfect soul mate. Get involved!

## Home Videos

**FATHER OF THE BRIDE** (Touchstone): In a fine performance, Steve Martin is the father struggling to cope with the unexpected engagement of his only daughter (appealing new comers Kimberly Williams) in this thoroughly delightful update of the classic 1950 film. Diane Keaton plays Martin's over-patient spouse, and Martin Short has some hilarious moments as a fork-tongued wedding consultant. \*\*\* (PG, AS, P)

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## YOUR HEALTH

### CALORIE COUNTDOWN

**STICKING TO** your diet until you achieve your goal doesn't do much good if you can't maintain your weight once you stop dieting. For many dieters, the desire to see that magic number on the scale is so compelling, they neglect to think about how they're going to keep the body they've worked so hard to attain.

When an American panel recently convened to investigate national dieting habits, they found over 90 per cent of all dieters were unable to permanently maintain the weight they had lost. Even more disturbing, most of the re-gainers put back the lost weight over a short 12-month period following the initial loss.

Interestingly, most diet experts tell us the problem of weight maintenance should really be addressed while we're still dieting. All too often dieters strive toward their ultimate weight-loss goal without making plans for the future of their bodies. As it turns out, most of the keys to successful maintenance can be found within the actual process of dieting. Here are some of those keys:

One essential element of dieting in a way that will make achieving and maintaining your

weight easier lies in the setting of goals. It's best to start out with modest, realistic expectations. If you've had a weight problem for more than a few years, don't expect to get rid of it within a matter of months. If an overweight problem runs in your family, realize there may be limitations on how quickly and/or how much weight you can lose.

Plan to lose in stages, rather than taking it all off, all at once.

No matter how many kilograms you want to lose, aim for gradual weight loss if you want to be successful at maintaining it. Experts tell us the quickest re-gains usually occur after rapid weight loss, and coming down around half a kilogram a week is the best goal. The more time your body has to adjust to its new weight as the losses occur, the less likely you will be to gain it all back.

While most dieters know you can't take off extra kilograms just by exercising (without changing your diet) this may not be true of weight maintenance. Some research evidence indicates regular exercise is one of the essential ingredients in maintaining lost weight. Begin a moderate exercise program while you're dieting, build up steadily to a level you are physically comfortable with (and that you have time for), and keep it up once you've achieved your diet goal.

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### KEEPING FIT

**TO EAT** and exercise, or exercise and eat? That is the question. It's not that simple, says Mort Malkin, in a recent issue of the US New Age-Peak Health Walking Club newsletter. There are advantages and disadvantages either way.

"The advantages of exercising after a meal is that, in some instances, more calories are burned," he said. "Whether the increase is caused by an increase in exercise induced metabolism, or by a rise in thermogenesis of the meal remains in question."

The disadvantages of eating and then exercising are: Doing so diverts blood away from the muscles, which results in a lesser workout. It also slows the digestive process, which can cause gastrointestinal dysfunction and distress.

It's better to do a strong workout on an empty stomach than a mild workout on a full stomach, but it's not a good idea to exercise in the morning without having eaten at all, Malkin says. Blood glucose levels, which are normally low before breakfast, will be driven even lower with exercise. To avoid hypoglycemia, Malkin advises a light breakfast of a slice of toast (or a quarter of a *Khubz* loaf), a glass of tea and an orange an hour before exercising.

Incidentally, your metabolism is at its peak in the afternoon, so if your schedule allows, that's the best time to exercise. And bon appetit!

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## ODDITIES

### Tallest man on Earth



**PAKISTAN** - The title of the world's tallest man has been given to a civil servant in Pakistan after the title holder's recent death. Mohammed Alam Channa squeezed in the record books in April. At 39, he is 7 ft 6 inches tall (225.24 cm) and has the largest feet in the world. Dr Rowan, who took his vital statistics, said Channa suffered from gigantism caused by a tumor on the pituitary gland. Gigantism poses serious problems - some develop progressive curvature of the spine, they have problems walking, their life expectancy is shorter and they need to eat three times the usual amount. Channa, who is married and has a young son, has had offers to make films in America, but would rather raise money for the poor in his region of Pakistan.



**INDIA** - In the village of Idai Buri a wedding of a different kind took place. The bashful bride was aged 7 years old and her groom was aged 11 years. The couple was one of many who were married last week on the Hindu celebration day, when over a hundred young children are married against the law of the Indian government.

**AMSTERDAM** - A terrier dog was attacked by a fish while his owner, Bert Van Luik, was training him for hunting. The fish bit the terrier on the face when he was fetching a stick from a river. The dog was so severely hurt that he was given six stitches.

**NEW YORK** - The Explorers' Club in Manhattan held their 110th anniversary last week. Living up to their name, the explorers explored their way through dinner, beginning with an entree of live ants, followed by a main course called "crows nests" which was stuffed with cockroaches and worms. The tasty meal was topped off by a cake made with sweet insect juice decorated with a layer of night cockroaches. President of the

club, Sharon Ariat, said the hardest thing was checking to make sure that all the insects were healthy, so as to not poison the 110 members who attended.

**PHILIPPINES** - A man aged 32 has been diagnosed as being pregnant in his 6th month. Head of the local hospital, Dr José, confirmed the pregnancy and said that the embryo is in good health. Carlo, the father (or mother?) of the baby has a rare condition called hermaphroditism, meaning that he has a mixture of male and female hormones. Unfortunately Carlo now faces new problems; he can't get maternity leave from work as he is a man, and the church won't let him marry his fiancée because he is pregnant.

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## Would You Believe....

Benedict Arnold received some pretty big bucks to betray his country — about 7,000 British pounds. That was a lot of money for those days.

There's a new computer game coming out called "Japan Bashing." The object is to force the Japanese government into granting trade concessions. But it's only going to be sold in Japan — for now at least.

In all, more than 355 former or current members of Congress are said to have written bad checks at the House bank.

An independent study group says that at least 81 journalists in 17 countries were killed in 1991 in connection with their jobs.

Oberlin College was the first in the U.S. to agree to offer education to both men and women in 1833. Two years later, the college refused to bar students on account of race.

## Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

## JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

### Welcome Dr. Ershedat

MINISTER OF youth, Dr. Saleh Ershedat, paid a visit to the Jordan Bridge Association accompanied by Mr. Eidi El Fayez, under secretary of the ministers and Mr. Waqas El-Tal from the minister's executive staff.

Dr. Ershedat is one of the few youth ministers who has had a very good idea about the obstacles that Jordan's youth face, and their solutions.

It was not a surprise for us that he knew by name almost all of the Association members who were there to welcome his visit. The same applies for Mr. Fayez, who is forming a successful team with the minister. Their combined effort has integrated into a homogeneous and harmonious result which is clearly affecting the clubs, activities and youth sport federations.

The Association's activities and targets were discussed with special reference to the participation of the National Jordanian teams in the ninth World Bridge Team Olympiad in Italy during August of this year. All members are expecting the best regarding the ministry's support.

Back to last week's hand:

(1) Mixed Pairs, not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, sitting East, you hold:

♠ 3 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJ975 ♣ AQ864

North	East	South	West
1♥	2♦	2♠	Pass
4♥	5♣	5♥	Pass

What do you bid now? 5N is your best bid, it shows diamond longer than club and asks partner for preference.

(2) Teams, equal vulnerability, sitting North you hold:

♠ A642 ♥ KQJ ♦ QJ8753 ♣ -

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Double	Pass	3♠	Pass

What do you bid now?

3♦ or 3♠ could be good bids if you don't hold the three heart honors.

It is about time to show heart support by bidding 3♥ paying a smooth way to a red suit slam. Coverage of His Excellency's visit has transferred the National Festival results to next week.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS							
1	Lapse	44	Residence	5	Tranquil	38	Excess of
5	Ceremonial	46	In a decor-	6	Spand, as	39	Asian
10	Prudish one	48	Made noise	7	Excavates	42	capital
14	Scarlett's	49	Legal wrong	8	Guido's	45	29A cele-
15	Depot	50	Shortly	9	Lets go	46	brates a
16	Adjutant	51	Made insane	10	Intense	47	release
17	Biblical	54	What 22A	11	Uproar	48	from —
18	prophet	58	Canton's	12	Not working	49	Digit
19	Kingly	59	Convex	13	Former	50	Did a one-
20	Edible fish	61	Corvex	21	actor Will	51	man job
22	Catlemen	62	Particle	23	Sacates	52	Decipher
23	Spring com-	62	Period	24	Pacino and	53	Denver's
24	memorial	62	before 22A	25	Fill	54	state: abbr
25	Clue	63	Strainer	26	the opera	55	Flightless
26	African	64	Stab	27	European	56	bird.
28	Event dur-	65	Pledge	28	capital	57	Grammar-
29	Time of 5A	66	Alleviated	29	terminal	58	ian's hor-
30	Like an	67	Sword	30	in a way	59	ror word
31	old woman			31	Mashed,	60	Does gar-
32	Uncovered			32	Over		dening
33	Hub			33	Shindig		Days gone
34	Fabled bird			34	Bravery		by
35	Somewhat			35	Get away		67 "Peter Pan"
36	acid			36	from		character
40	Rule			37	Got hitched		68 By way of
41	Same			38	again		
43	Lifo: Lat.			39	Erected		

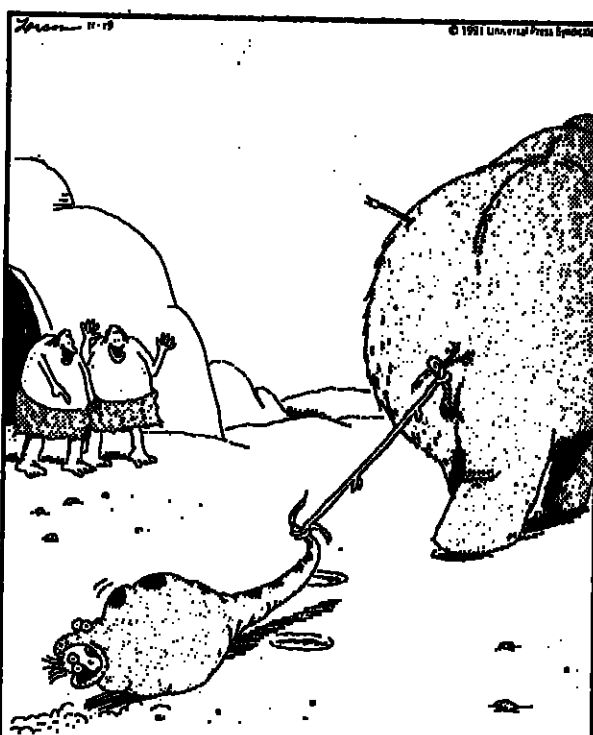
DOWN												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

## THE FAR SIDE

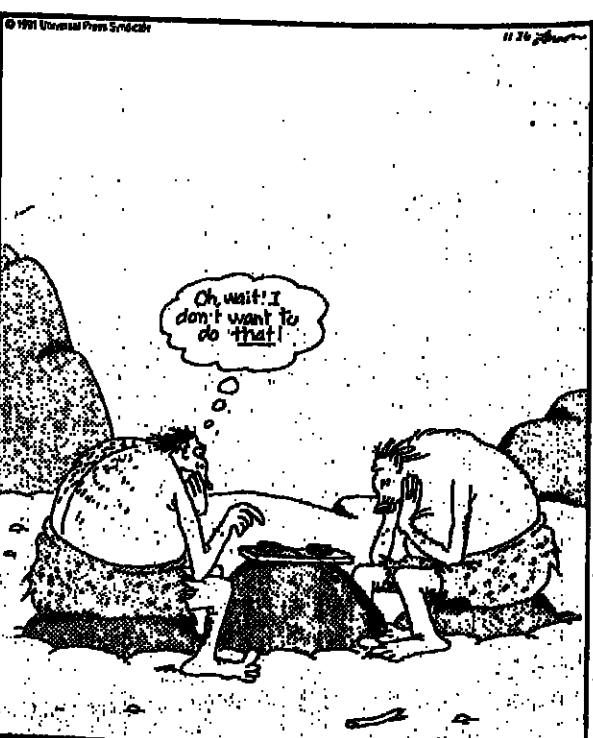
By GARY LARSON



Why we see news anchorpersons only from the waist up.



Practical jokes of the Paleolithic



Early checkers

## Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	674750
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677889
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	672331
Hungarian	816614
Indian	637262
Irish	639331
Japanese	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Yugoslavian	672466/7
Kuwait	665107
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641481
Moroccan	637967/625165
Netherlands	828911
North Korean	666349
Pakistan Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
Al-Labadi	813554
National	639197/8
Nepal	616792
Philippines	665094
Polish	637153
Qatar	644331/2
Romanian	665738
Saudi Arabian	817154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	662512/2
Sudanese	644312
Swedish	666167
Syrian	641076
Turkish	674307/8
Turkmen	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Yemen	642381
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNRWA	668171/7
UNDP	669194/8
UNICEF	671530
Con. of Sri Lanka	629571
Con. of Iceland	696831

## Airlines

Arab Air Cargo	674191/95
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666055 / 667824
Air India	675888/9
Air Lanka	655377/651799
Alitalia	625202
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	653606/656616
Hungarian Airlines	639295
Iberia	637827/644036
Iraqi Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kuwait Airlines	630144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639573/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
PIA	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qatar	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	678321
Sabena Belgian Airlines	675888
Saudi	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Swedish Airlines	662111
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	642943
Syrian Air	629831
TARCOM - Romanian	622147
TWA Airways	637380
Tunis World Airline	604649
Turkish Airlines	623430
Yemenia Airways	659102
Yugoslav Airlines	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

## Diary

### Activities

#### Cultural centres

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Cultural Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Quoshe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Husseini Youth City	667181/5
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.C.A.	64251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

#### Cinemas

Concord	677420
Rainbow	625155
Plaza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijoum	675571

#### Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	637313
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Assoc.	676990

### Rent-a-car

Shakhsir	668958
Al-Jabal	606669
Kada	665161/665153
Al-Labadi	813554
National	639197/8
Nepal	616792
Philippines	665094
Petra	605501
Rabbit Amman	672424
Al-Rimal	639861
Al-Samer	665181
Satellite	625767/621471
Star	604904
Tiger	671931
Trust	673312
Al-Waha	674105
Abu Degga	644642/644906
Amin Jarrar (Avis)	670498
Amman	666327
Arabian	641350
Avis-Jarrar	08/51000
Budget	604230
De'as	669970
Direl	660601
Europcar	601350/80
General Services	674100
Gulf	660902

### Hotels

Amman	
Crown	798181
Philadelphia	663100
Marriott	660100
Regency	660000
Jerusalem	665094
InterContinental	641361
Ambassador	665186
Commodor	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	666114
International	841712
San Rock	813801
Alia Gateway	08/51000
Amra	815071
Plaza	674111
Aqaba	
Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340
Al-Cazar	314131
Coral Beach	313521
Aquamarina I	316250
Aqaba	314091
Aqaba Gulf Hotel	316636

### Important Numbers

Emergencies	
Amman Governorate	91228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid.	271292
Civil Defence Dept.	661111
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	630341
Police rescue	621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390
Electric Power Co.	636381/4
Water complaints	897467
Queen Alia Airport	08/53200
RJ Flight Info	08/53200

### Hospitals

Husseini Medical Centre	813813
Khaledi Maternity	644281/6
Akhele Maternity	642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palatine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushar Hospital	667227/8
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

### General

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	605800
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	121
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Repair service	623101

## Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Mumazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

## Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terrassaneta Church: (Roman Catholic), Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq Tel. 811255.

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